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LD1310130088 [Editorial Report]

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid has decided to hold a referendum 3 November on a proposal to amend the Constitution, Algiers television announced. The amendment will ensure that the president will choose a head of government who is responsible to the People's National Assembly.

Proposed reforms for the introduction of "wider democracy" will subsequently be submitted to the FLN Congress, the television added, and amendments to the National Charter and Constitution resulting from these reforms will likewise be submitted to the people in a referendum.

Commenting on the proposals, the Algerian ambassador to France told Paris radio that reform of the executive branch will make the prime minister accountable to the National Assembly, while other reforms to be considered at the FLN Congress will make a "thorough overhaul" of the Constitution and National Charter.

A related APS commentary said the changes will ensure greater parliamentary control over the executive and will encourage the prime minister to choose ministers on the basis of ability with "no one debarred."

On the security situation, Paris radio reported an increasing number of arrests by security forces, noting that those detained include Islamic fundamentalists, communists, and human rights activists.

While calm was returning to Algiers, 10 people were killed in violent clashes between demonstrators and the forces of order in Tizi Ouzou, capital of the Kabylie region, the radio said.

Responding to foreign media coverage of the crisis, Algiers television berated European newspapers which have depicted Algeria in a state of "collapse," claiming that such reports emanate from those "who never forgave us for attaining our independence" and are evidence of the foreign media's "hysteria and constant hostility toward Algeria."

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry summoned the French ambassador to protest "inadmissible" remarks on the Algerian situation by Jacques Pelletier, the French minister for cooperation and development, APS reported. The protest followed Pelletier's criticisms of President Bendjedid's 10 October speech, Paris radio noted. The radio broadcast remarks by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas expressing hope that Bendjedid's reforms will be successful and stressing that France must demonstrate solidarity with Algeria by helping it through the current difficulties.

Iran

UN Peace Talks—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati presented the cabinet with a report that described the development of the peace talks as "relatively positive but slow," Tehran radio reported.

Leaked Musavi Letter—A copy of a 7 September letter from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to President 'Ali Khamene'i recently reached Paris by a clandestine route, LE MONDE reported, noting that the letter explains the "real reasons" for Musavi's request to resign.

Musavi complained in it about his lack of control over foreign policy, stating he did not know that "contacts have been established with the United States through five different channels."

He also wrote that "overseas operations are carried out without the government ordering them or knowing anything about them," indicating that this includes hijackings and the attempt to smuggle explosives into Saudi Arabia in the luggage of Iranian pilgrims.

LE MONDE cited reply letters from Khamene'i and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni which sharply rejected Musavi's request to resign.

Iraq

Lebanon Policy—Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, in a statement reported by INA, explained that Iraq recognizes Michel 'Awn's government as legitimate not out of a bias toward any party, but from a constitutional viewpoint.

He stressed Iraq's support for an independent and unified Lebanon, which he said has been a victim of collusion between the "Zionist entity" and the Syrian regime to prevent its unification.

ICO Conference—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim stated that Iran's failure to attend the ICO information ministers conference was "natural," Baghdad radio reported.

He said the conference was for advocates of true Islam and Iran is an "abnormal phenomenon" among states of the Islamic world.

Kuwait

A shipping newspaper cited by KUNA reported that six Kuwaiti tankers are reverting to the national flag after less than a year under Liberian registration.

Jordan

Members of the Journalists Association Council discussed "encroachments" on their profession during a 12 October meeting with the interior minister, SAWT AL-SHA'B reported.

The Council handed the minister a memorandum containing names of press offices that violate the law and of persons "who falsely assume the identity of journalists," and it urged the minister to put an end to such practices.

An earlier report by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD likewise noted concern among Jordanian journalists about "unwelcome infiltrators who pose as journalists."

Israel

Territories—Seven people were wounded in clashes with security forces in the territories 12 October, Jerusalem radio reported. An IDF patrol discovered and dismantled a bomb placed near a Gaza junction used by soldiers, IDF radio noted.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Islamic Jihad Organization claimed responsibility for the grenade attack which injured two soldiers in Gaza the previous day.

Sharon in Hungary—Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's arrival in Budapest on an "unofficial" visit was reported by MTI, which noted that he will hold talks with senior Hungarian officials on ways to develop bilateral economic relations.

Afghanistan

Government—Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Sharq, in a news conference reported by AFP, acknowledged that the Afghan people have no more confidence in President Najibullah's ruling party than they have in the rebels.

He also said the Afghan Government will not fight to retain power in any coalition government with Muslim rebels and he will resign if any party tries to retain power.

Rebel Gains—Islamabad radio, citing resistance sources, reported that rebels have captured Katawaz, an important militia base in eastern Paktika Province.

After heavy fighting on 11 October the mujahidin forces captured 500 militiamen and their families, arms, ammunition, and military vehicles.

Soviet Aid—The USSR's permanent representative to the United Nations, cited by TASS, confirmed the Soviet Union will take an active part in the UN program to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

The aid will include consumer goods, medical assistance, and funds to be put at the disposal of the UN coordinator.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio warned the SPLA will shoot down any plane sent by the World Food Program to drop food supplies to the Sudanese Army garrison in Torit.

In Khartoum, AL-AYYAM confirmed the Sudanese Army was recently forced to withdraw from Ikoto, near Torit, the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Hawatimah Insists on Declaration of State

JN1210144788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] In Moscow, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah delivered a statement affirming the DFLP and the vast majority of PLO factions and national figures reject what he termed U.S., Western, and Egyptian pressures. Instead, these groups insist on the necessity of speeding up the PNC meeting, declaring the establishment of the Palestinian state, and forming its provisional government.

Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Moscow heading a DFLP delegation on an official invitation from the Soviet leadership.

'Independence Statement' To Be Issued 2 Nov

JN1210203088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Tunis—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PNC will issue the independence statement on 2 November, on the Balfour Declaration anniversary. The PNC will also ask the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility in protecting the occupied Palestinian territory.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that the leaders of the Palestinian factions during their recent meetings in Tunis set 31 October as the date for the extraordinary PNC session.

Hamas Leader Interviewed on Islamic Movement

JN1010093788 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 8 Oct 88 pp 24-25

[Interview with deported Shaykh Khalil Quqa, one of the Gazan leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Yahya Hamzah and Shawqi Mahmud—date, place not given]

[Text] [AL-ANBA'] First, what is Hamas and what does it symbolize? How is it structured and what is the nature of its Palestinian and Arab relations? When was it actually established and when did it emerge in this structure and under this name? What is its role toward the Palestine question inside and outside the occupied territories?

[Quqa] Talk about the Islamic Resistance Movement as an arm for the Islamic current and the Islamic movement outside occupied Palestine in general and in occupied Palestine in particular should be preceded by talk about Hamas. We should briefly account for the Islamic current in occupied Palestine, how it grew, how it spread its roots among the Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine, where it started, and what was its origin.

The Islamic current in occupied Palestine, particularly in Gaza, is part of the Islamic movement in the Arab homeland, particularly in Egypt, and is not historically detached from it. It has origins, roots, papers, books, leaders, and people who sacrificed for the emergence of this current and the existence of the youth and generation of this Islamic current. However, this Islamic current was affected by the 1967 occupation and its emergence came as a reaction to occupation and the Arab nation's defeat in 1967.

The Islamic current reacted by attempting to encounter and contain the wave of loss, displacement, and emigration that afflicted our new generation as a result of the 1967 defeat. The Islamic movement's reaction was as its leader Ahmad Yasin said: "We and the Jews are in struggle over one generation." This phrase conformed with what the Jews, the enemies of Islam, said. Begin or Dayan said the same phrase: "We and the Arabs are in struggle over one generation."

The reaction of the Islamic movement was embodied in two major currents or directions aimed at confronting two violent waves which wanted to sweep through this generation:

The first wave was that of Zionism with all its schemes toward this generation, the generation of occupation. Zionism attempted to rob this generation of its ideological, ethical, historical, and cultural heritage exactly as it did with the brothers in "the 1948 Palestine." When the 1967 borders were opened, the Palestinian, Islamic, and Arab structure of this generation and this stratum of the Arab and Palestinian Islamic nation in the 1948 Palestine had already been exposed to commotion, fragmentation, and complete dissolution.

These people were about to absorb the Israeli theory and plan to spoil and wipe out this generation. Hence, there would be no Arabism, Islam, or even Palestinianism. Thus, the generation died dishonorably and homelessly in the streets of the so-called Zionist entity on the land of Palestine.

One of the positive effects of the occupation of the 1948 people was the failure of this plan and the emergence of an attempt to reawaken the generation. Therefore, Israel and the Jews came with diabolical schemes derived from the experience of their displacement and dispersement in small groups in all countries. They came with an experience to strike at the civilization and human history of any generation, community, or creed with which they come into contact. They are always offensive and plan things with a feeling of superiority and haughtiness according to their own handwritten Torah theories.

The Islamic movement stood up against this wave to wipe out or defy this generation and destroy their creed. Israel came to create people who care only for the delights of life and who give in to its domination as if they were mere laborers in the streets and plants of Tel

Aviv, Yafo, and other cities in occupied Palestine. It set up places to spoil manners and destroy values and disseminated sex videocassettes and coiffures, all of which are dangerous in the full sense of the word. It also spread the means of corruption which sweep through the generation from childhood to manhood.

The role of the Islamic movement between 1967 and 1975 was represented by building mosques, mobilizing and closing the ranks of this generation, and concentrating and deepening this doctrine in the spirit of this generation to confront the Zionist current. To achieve this, the Islamic movement used all available means. During this period, the mosque was not a place for prayers only but also a school, a place for sports, a library, and a place for women to pray and to practice their activities.

The mosque was a place for praying, studying, and teaching the holy Koran. The mosque moved to clubs, youth facilities, and secondary, preparatory, and elementary schools. In each secondary school in Gaza, and even in the West Bank later, there were mosques or so-called Islamic societies in which religious speeches were delivered in the morning and historical and political ideas were discussed to awaken this generation and expose the Jews' schemes to dominate this nation within a short period of time.

The stage of institutions began with the appearance of Islamic societies and student blocs in Gaza and the West Bank.

I can say the conflict now is very tough. This silent conflict is being waged in each mosque, school, street, and institution because Israel is trying to attract, contain, and buy this generation at any price.

The wave of enlightenment did not appear in Gaza only but also in the West Bank where there are student blocs in universities. The current of the Islamic movement affected the West Bank and the youths of Palestine occupied in 1948. This generation represented by student blocs in the universities of Al-Najah, Bir Zayt, and Hebron; the Science College in Abu Dis; the Al-Da'wah and Islamic Theology Colleges in Jerusalem; and the community colleges throughout the West Bank and Gaza cohered with the students of Gaza and Palestine occupied in 1948.

This stage of institutions shaped this generation. This is the beginning of awakening the 1948 generation from the attempts to spread ignorance and spoil the character of the Muslim and Arab people or the Palestinians in Palestine occupied in 1948 in particular.

The Islamic current and movement waged a new confrontation represented by the attempt to spread ignorance. Israel dealt a blow to education. It created a jolt in the educational structure on the elementary, secondary, and university levels. It neglected education and besieged the universities, did not put the right teacher in the right place, and used all methods to abort education. Israel built vocational schools with 6 months or 1 year teaching courses so as to create workers and divert the students away from education, awakening, and understanding the history and the stage in which their generation lived. Israel tried to spread ignorance, spoil schools, and turn them into false institutions. Students began to leave the schools in large numbers.

The Islamic current began to confront the attempts to spread ignorance through many methods, including the opening of classes in most of the central mosques in Gaza and the West Bank. Islamic kindergartens were established to absorb the children of the generation. Classes were also opened in clubs and centers to support the curricula in an attempt to raise the standard of the students so that those students will avoid financial burdens, particularly since the Jews, as usual, create economic problems. This happened in Palestine occupied in 1948. The breadwinner of the family no longer can support his family. So one or two of his family would leave the school to support the family. If one of the students is not good in one of the subjects, the father takes him to work. Thus, the educational structure and schools began to collapse.

This was the Islamic movement's trend to support and boost education. I had to say this to respond to two accusations: The first says: Where was the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas? The second says: What was the role of Muslims in the previous stage? I wanted to respond to the saying that the Islamic movement is a balloon inflated by Israel.

The posed question is: Is the Islamic University the outcome of an Islamic movement, or is the Islamic movement the outcome of the university?

Of course, the first is more accurate and realistic. The university is the outcome of the Islamic movement. The existence of an Islamic university including 5,000 male and female students studying all subjects except for medicine, engineering, and law indicates the strength of the Islamic movement which managed to produce and bring into existence a university of this honorable size, which has been turning out graduates over the past 10 years.

The Islamic movement did not establish this university easily. It had to wage a battle alone against all currents. Had it not been for the strength and popularity of the Islamic movement in the West Bank, that part of Palestine occupied in 1948, and the Gaza Strip, it would not have been able to safeguard the establishment of a university, the obstruction and strangling of which was sought by all currents.

[AL-ANBA'] Why did these currents object to the establishment of the Islamic University?

[Quqa] This is the question I want to pose. Why do they object to an Islamic university adopted by Islamists? Without specification, objection came from all trends and currents. However, the Islamic University managed to stand on its feet. In its struggle, the university passed through three stages:

The first was whether or not a university would be established by Islamists.

The second stage was whether it was going to be an Islamic university or a Gaza university. The Islamists insisted on an Islamic university. This was achieved after hard efforts.

The third stage was to establish an Islamic university, but for it to be mixed and have a secular course like other universities in the West Bank like Bi'r Zayt and Al-Najah. However, the Islamists said the Islamism of the university comes first. Its course is in line with Al-Azhar University [in Egypt] and Islamic law and theology colleges. The battle of this university has been waged by the Islamic movement against all those opposing its establishment, even against the Jews who have not recognized it so far.

It receives, teaches, and graduates students. It draws up its curricula, contacts world, Arab, and Islamic universities, and includes 5,000 male and female students. It is considered an entity for the Islamic nation and the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine because it is the largest university in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and that part of Palestine occupied in 1948.

[AL-ANBA'] What about the current uprising in the occupied territories and the Islamic movement's role in it?

[Quqa] The Islamic movement is not the offspring of the uprising. The Islamic movement is not a newcomer in the Palestine question, nor a passerby on the land of Palestine. It has deep roots and longstanding struggle. It made sacrifices. Its banner has been risen by successive generations. It has its heritage which stems from the holy Koran and Islamic law and theology.

Had those young men who were born under the occupation and with the presence of Jews been left for Israel and its methods of distorting the generation, there would not have been an uprising nor a Palestinian Muslim Arab people in occupied Palestine, but they would have been called the Arabs of Israel, or Israeli citizens of third or fourth grade.

Therefore, the Islamic movement had an effective role in maintaining this generation under the banner of Islam. From the mosques and their minarets, this generation declared and started their jihad revolution called the uprising on 8 December against the Jews using stones and raising the slogan God is great.

[AL-ANBA'] You said the Islamic movement is not the offspring of the uprising; is the uprising the offspring of the Islamic movement?

[Quqa] With all pride, and without belittling other people's rights, being unjust to anothers' role, or attempting to exclude them, the Islamic movement is proud that it started the uprising on the night of 8 December and the early morning of the next day. I meant to be specific in mentioning this.

[AL-ANBA'] Was the uprising accidental or planned to be a tumultuous uprising that will continue for a long time?

[Quqa] From the perspective of the Islamic Resistance Movement, the uprising was not planned even 1 hour before it started; it started the night the confrontation began when help was extended to Jabalyah so the occupation forces would not be able to destroy the society's structure there. They [in the Islamic resistance] said the Islamic effort should be distributed to all of the Gaza Strip. Therefore, when Rashid Shihadah, the first martyr in the Islamic movement, fell on the 2d day of the uprising, another youth took his place and was martyred. One martyr followed another and the uprising began in waves.

The Islamic movement was compelled to view this confrontation seriously and to discuss the possibility of continuing it. Within 7 or 10 days the Islamic movement in Gaza gave its orders to the other [Islamic resistance] group in the entire West Bank to begin the uprising. They began it in a Nabulus mosque and then it spread in the West Bank and its villages. As for the group in that part of Palestine occupied in 1948, they were asked to move only as much as they are allowed to do.

The uprising is not the last of the stages of confronting Israel, but only a stage. Therefore, we do not want to throw in all the Islamic movement's assets in a war of stones or a war which we quite well know would not remove Israel. This war, however, has had an impact on the Israeli presence. It refuted the idea that it is impossible to remove Israel and that Israel must exist on the land of Palestine. I apologize to anyone who says I planned for the uprising 2 months or even 2 days before it began and say this is untrue.

[AL-ANBA'] You said the Islamic movement is deep-rooted. When did it take the form and name of Hamas?

[Quqa] About 2 years before the uprising. It issued leaflets and statements under the name of the Islamic Resistance Movement, but without the word Hamas, which began to be used with the beginning of the uprising. The word Hamas is an acronym of the Islamic Resistance Movement just like the PLO, which means the Palestine Liberation Organization.

[AL-ANBA'] Does the fact it carries the name "Hamas" mean there is an inclination to separation or independence from the movement's other factions?

[Quqa] No, why should we interpret things in this manner? Hamas is not one of the PLO factions; it is part of the world Islamic movement whose role dates back tens of years. The Islamic movement did not get into Palestine through luxurious life, but through the prisons of the whole world and through those who were hanged and paid blood as a price for its emergence. The Islamic movement in Palestine is not separate from the Arab and world Islamic movement.

[AL-ANBA'] Does this mean it has a relation with the Khomeyniite Islamic current?

[Quqa] It has no relation with the Khomeyniite current.

[AL-ANBA'] Were there any contacts between the two sides?

[Quqa] No, there were no contacts, especially since the Khomeyniite current was mild and came to an end. This means it got into Palestine as a breeze that no longer has any effect.

[AL-ANBA'] Why?

[Quqa] Because of the awareness of the Muslim community in Palestine and its ability to distinguish between things.

[AL-ANBA'] Does the emergence of the Islamic current in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict not pose the basic issue of whether the conflict between Zionism and the Arabs is a religious or national one?

[Quqa] From a Koranic, Islamic standpoint the conflict is ideological and religious. We are not the ones who impose it in this way. The Jews came to Palestine according to a Torah call and out of religious and ideological considerations. They are even fighting us from a religious viewpoint. Dayan told the Jews in France "we do not want an Islamic war with the Arabs because Muslims fight for the afterlife and we fight for life."

An Israeli officer also had a debate with a prisoner in an occupied Palestine prison. He asked him: What is the background of the conflict between us and you? The young Palestinian prisoner said: It is the land, soil, and homeland. The Jew smiled and said: According to statistics, you absorb more of the land and its produce than we do, but the conflict between us and you is an ideological conflict between the Koran and Torah, between Jews and Muslims. The Jews fully understand this. This is not new to the Palestine question, which is basically an Islamic issue.

Almighty God's only intervention in the past Muslim battles during the lifetime of the prophet, may peace and blessings of God be upon him, was confined to a single element, which is the nature of the battle. God wanted it to be a battle between blasphemy and faith, between pre-Islamic paganism and Islam. He who accepts the nature of the battle can choose its scene and can join it. Only then does he deserve God's support. This is except for the battle of Palestine. God has intervened in two elements. First, that the battle is between Islam and all forces of blasphemy and conspiration. Second, that Palestine is the scene of the battle.

Therefore, no battle for the sake of Palestine will be waged outside Palestine. No battle will be won by the Muslims or Arabs unless it is one of Islam versus blasphemy. The Jews are the epitome of wickedness in the world, the epitome of plotting in the East and the West, and the epitome of the longstanding historic conflict among nations and at the times of prophets and messengers. On the other hand, there is the epitome of goodness represented by the Muslims under our messenger Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

[AL-ANBA'] Where is the pan-Arab dimension in the conflict?

[Quqa] It exists. When I say Islam, I mean the Arabs, and then the smallest circle which is the Palestinians. The Palestine question is not a Palestinian or a PLO issue. This is a distortion and belittlement of it. The Palestine question is an Arab and Islamic one. These three circles cannot be separated from each other or from their sequence at all. Otherwise, the Palestine question would lose its wide dimension, concept, vigor, framework, and depth. It would also become easy to be encroached upon. There is no contradiction among Palestinianism, Arabism, and Islamism.

Who is the current spearhead of the battle? It is the Palestinians. The Palestinian who is confronting the Jews in occupied Palestine is an Arab and Muslim.

[AL-ANBA'] And a Christian?

[Quqa] As brothers who have a holy writ, Christians are welcome as brothers in arms if they wish. We do not force a Christian, blame him, or level accusations against him if he does not get engaged in the struggle against Israel. This is because the battle of Palestine is the task of the Muslims in the first place.

[AL-ANBA'] Are there ties of cooperation between you and the Christian leaderships participating in the uprising?

[Quqa] We have no disagreements or disputes with them, but courtesies and goodneighborliness.

[AL-ANBA'] While you were talking, you referred to the PLO at various places. What is Hamas' relationship with the PLO, both negatively and positively?

[Quqa] In the concept of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the only difference is over one point, which is the point of breach. This point is the recognition of the State of Israel and acceptance of giving the Jews even one granule of sand.

[AL-ANBA'] Even if this is transitional?

[Quqa] There is no transitivity in the Palestine question, nor a transitivity in recognition which gives Israel all that it wants. We have no place for that. What does transitivity mean for others?

When I give Israel recognition, the land and people of 1948, secure borders, and prevent whoever wants to continue liberation, what will be left for us? This is in the hope that the state which will be established will not turn itself into a security zone [for Israel]. Will we have the right, from the viewpoint of the PLO and the entire world, to recognize secure borders for Israel, and at the same time carry arms and attack?

[AL-ANBA'] Does this mean that the point of breach emerged only during the past 3 months when transitional solutions and peaceful settlements were proposed?

[Quqa] I do not so far recognize a problem or a conflict on the land of the uprising in occupied Palestine. These are orientations. Each side has its own orientations and a method for dealing with the Jews.

[AL-ANBA'] Does this orientation include the Islamic current only, or all the uprising leaderships?

[Quqa] The orientation of rejecting the recognition of Israel includes the Islamic movement and leaderships from inside the PLO, and Fatah in particular.

[AL-ANBA'] And the uprising leaderships cooperating with the Islamic current in the occupied territories?

[Quqa] They announced that they accept the solution, and there will be no agreement with these people. [sentence as published] The difference between Hamas and the uprising leaderships is fabricated. The conciliation about which they talked was fabricated, too. There are no disputes in the uprising. Israel tried to split up ranks with all possible means, including the distribution of leaflets carrying the name of the Unified Leadership or Hamas. The vigilant people were aware of this. The uprising is too enlightened to bring about a split in its ranks.

However, there are attempts to divide the Islamic current and remove it from the circle of Palestinian struggle, which is the origin and mother, because the Palestine question is first and foremost an Islamic issue that is possessed by the Islamic current. When we say an Islamic current we do not mean we are against the other currents. We are against the Jews only. We have no enemies other than the Jews. We will not make enemies or respond to any provocations because we do not want to be dissuaded or dragged into matters unrelated to the original confrontation of Jews.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you recognize the PLO's leadership?

[Quqa] We recognize the PLO as a leader of the organizations represented in it.

[AL-ANBA'] Why did the Islamic current grow strongly in Gaza and then extend to the West Bank and not the other way around?

[Quqa] The roots of the Islamic current are affected by the Islamic movement in Egypt. The bases and leaderships of this current existed before occupation. The pillars on which this current was founded were present and were not created in Israel's era. Therefore, it was not difficult for the Islamic movement's leaderships to penetrate the Islamic ranks and make people return to Islam and to the houses of God in the wake of the bankruptcy of all currents in the previous stage. Before 1967 all currents, trends, banners, posters, and symbols could not prove their ability to satisfy the Palestinian people's desire and achieve their aspirations.

Therefore, the masses in occupied Palestine reacted by returning to the houses of God. The Islamic movement received them and reformulated them through repressive practices. [sentence as published] The Islamists have not been spared the Jews' harm throughout 20 years. It is untrue to say that Israel gave rise to the Islamic current to counter the national current. This is false. Where were those who claim this when the Islamic society in Gaza was demolished with the hands and bulldozers of the Jews under intensive military protection? Which national institution was demolished? All the institutions which claim to be national are there and receive aid and live comfortably.

Where was this current when a mosque was encircled by seven of the tanks which invaded southern Lebanon, when tear gas was used in 1984, when fire was opened on the worshippers, and when one of the mosque's youths, called Jihad Abu 'Ayshah, lost one of his eyes? Where were they when the walls of mosques were knocked down and when the Jews entered the mosques' libraries, shredded books, and trod on the Koran? Where were they when we the mosque preachers were summoned on Friday eves to the military governor's office and when we were prevented from performing prayers?

We were also prevented from traveling or pursuing our education. Everyone whose name is obtained by the intelligence service was prevented from continuing his education or traveling outside the Gaza Strip and West

Bank. The local news media in occupied Palestine were unjust to the Islamists. They did not highlight any role for them throughout the past period of their confrontation of Jews.

[AL-ANBA'] You said the Islamic movement in Gaza has radical connections with the Islamic current in Egypt. We know this current has numerous trends, some of which are moderate while others are extremist. With which one of these organizations is the Islamic movement in Gaza connected?

[Quqa] I do not say a radical connection, but the Islamic movement in Gaza was influenced and continues to be influenced by the current of Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood.

[AL-ANBA'] Does Hamas run organizations comprising Palestinians and others outside the occupied land?

[Quqa] Yes. The Islamic Resistance Movement is the arm of the Islamic movement in and outside occupied Palestine. In other words, all of the Islamic movements in the Arab and Muslim worlds, Europe, Asia, and everywhere else are a body of this arm, called the Islamic Resistance Movement in occupied Palestine. It is funny that some people should say the Islamic Resistance Movement is a virtual balloon being inflated to match the size of the PLO. The PLO is just a stage in Israel's life and Israel a stage in the life of the Islamic tide.

To those who are pointing fingers at their brothers, neighbors, classmates, and comrades in suffering, I have this to say: Shame on you. Is it Israel which created the Muslim community in the occupied land? Does it stand to reason that Israel created the Islamic movement, which is now organizing a general strike sweeping Gaza, the West Bank, and the part of Palestine occupied since 1948?

[AL-ANBA'] Who is behind this claim?

[Quqa] All of the leftist currents and enemies of Islam.

[AL-ANBA'] It's been reported that a meeting will take place between 'Arafat and Hamas during his visit to Kuwait, but that it's been postponed due to differences of opinion. How true is this?

[Quqa] This is another balloon. This is part of the stir over the alleged disagreement. They are saying a reconciliation took place somewhere and that 'Arafat and Hamas will sit together to seal it. The aim is to suggest that the Islamic Resistance Movement is in the mainstream of the PLO and thereby project us as being carried along with the drift of peace. This talk is baseless.

It has neither come to our knowledge nor have we been told that 'Arafat will sit with Hamas. If he is to sit with anybody, it will be with me, unless some Hamas member should want to leave occupied Palestine to talk to him. Sitting with 'Arafat will not be against the backdrop of disagreement, because Hamas has no differences with any trend in occupied Palestine. All this talk is fabricated clamor.

[AL-ANBA'] What are the sources of funding for the Islamic movement?

[Quqa] In the three stages that the movement has passed through—the mosque stage from 1975, the institutions stage in the early eighties, and the stage of actual and armed struggle as well as cultural and ideological struggle with the Jews—the funding came from inside occupied Palestine and donations from Muslims and Arabs in the Gulf, plus Islamic philanthropic societies.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you think the uprising is here to stay, especially given Israel's repressive tactics?

[Quqa] If it is spared abortion by peaceful solutions, the uprising will carry on and assume more serious dimensions.

[AL-ANBA'] Is it possible it will turn into armed struggle?

[Quqa] This is likely.

[AL-ANBA'] Do you approve of an international conference?

[Quqa] The answer is a flat no. The uprising is about rejecting all capitulationist solutions, including an international conference, which I have described as a monstrosity witnessed by four major powers and as such deserves to be stoned by the people of the occupied land as called for by shari'a law.

[AL-ANBA'] But you have said the uprising will not uproot Israel. Rather it is against the Zionist presence. Where is the uprising headed then?

[Quqa] The uprising seeks to secure an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza without any strings attached or borders being defined, and, if need be, under international trusteeship. The transitional international trusteeship will then supervise local elections leading to government by town councils.

[AL-ANBA'] Will the uprising achieve this goal on its own?

[Quqa] The uprising has set itself this goal and, relying on God, it will achieve it.

[AL-ANBA'] Those who closely follow the uprising notice that Israel is apprehensive on Fridays because the Muslims' meetings in mosques always constitute the nucleus for the renewal of popular anger. What is the role of mosques in the uprising?

[Quqa] Mosques have been the bases of the uprising since it started and during its various stages and have been the platforms for its perpetuation. Mosques are the military garrisons that nurtured this well-organized generation. The children who in 1967 used to say about mosques: Sell them because you will make profit from them, are now saying: O Jews of Khaybar, prophet Muhammad's army will return. Where did they learn this expression? They learned it in the mosques during religious lessons there and from sermons delivered from the mosques' pulpits by young men who have have been brought up in accordance with the mosque's teachings.

Therefore, the mosque is the uprising. From this premise, I cannot ask what role the mosque plays in the uprising. If I say so, I will not be giving the mosque what it deserves. The mosque is the uprising, as confirmed by the fact that when the uprising abates during the days of the week, it escalates once again from the mosques on Fridays.

I would like here to emphasize the Islamic character of the Palestinian cause, that the Palestinian soil is pure, and that it will only be liberated by pure hands. No filthy occupation will remain on it.

God has assembled the Jews in Palestine not to have them enjoy it as a homeland, but to make it a graveyard for them so the world at large will be saved from their filth. In the same manner that any Muslim pilgrim redeems himself when he offers a sacrifice in Mina, so will the Jews be slaughtered on the rock of Al-Aqsa by pure hands such as those of the pilgrims.

Why do those who lament the fate of 4 million Israelis in Palestine not shed tears for the 4 million Palestinians who have been living over the past 40 years in tents and in the diaspora?

Every Jew has a second home and second homeland outside Palestine. As for us, we have no other home and no other homeland. Palestine is our only homeland.

I tell those who are panting after the establishment of a Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine: Will such a state solve the problem of the six refugee camps in Lebanon? Our people in Lebanon are sleeping on the sidewalks. Will it solve the problems of the Palestinians in the Al-Yarmuk camp in Syria? Will it solve the problems of the Palestinians in Jordan or in the other locations in the diaspora? Will this state be able to accommodate 4 or 5 million Palestinians?

God forbid, if there is a recognition of Israel, will the Palestinian state become a security belt preventing the Islamists from pursuing jihad against the Israeli presence on the soil of Palestine? Will the leaders of this state confront the Islamists if they try to liberate their homeland and seek martyrdom? This state that will govern four Palestinian cities, will it solve the problems of all the Palestinians and provide all of them with jobs?

Who gave any man on earth, a leader or all leaders, a state or all states, an organization or all organizations, the right to grant a single grain of Palestinian sand to establish a homeland for aliens in Palestine? Who permitted them to sell a territory, a homeland, an entity, and an entire nation?

From the Islamic viewpoint, this is a crime and a violation of Islam. According to a judgment by the men of religion, it is illegal to make peace with Israel and to approve granting it Arab and Islamic land. Moreover, all Muslims are dutybound to struggle against Jews. The arena is open for everyone to fight the Jews and the boundaries are spacious enough for everyone for the sake of liberation.

There is no reason for me and you to accuse one another because both of us are targets for the Israeli rifle. Rifles of the Alignment, the Likud, the Labor Party, and other Israeli parties are directed toward us. We do not distinguish between their rifles when they are directed toward our people. Likewise, their rifles do not distinguish between you and me. Hence, why do we accuse each other in the arena of conflict and why do we discount ourselves before the world?

I assert that the Islamic movement is not a new current but a deep, firmly entrenched, widespread, and comprehensive one. The greatest proof of this is that Hamas is creating disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On Thursday before last, the day of the Khaybar conquest anniversary, a general strike was observed both on the West Bank and in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 thanks to a call by Hamas. Therefore, we tell them: Do justice to us and mention there are Muslims in the arena. However, news media seek to blackout this issue.

On this occasion, I would like to stress the Islamic Resistance Movement's respect for the speech delivered by his highness the amir [not further identified] at UN Headquarters during the UN's 43d session. Hamas views with respect, appreciation, and pride both this speech and his highness' proposals, particularly his highness' emphasis on the Palestinian people's right to their entire soil in occupied Palestine.

We were much pleased when his highness said: "This is a people who have been waiting for 40 years for their rights to be recognized." This is true because the people have not tired, only some leaders. The people have not tired because they consist of surging generations like the waves of the ocean, and each generation has its own leaders and capabilities seeking to express their existence. So why should I close the door before the coming generations?

Why should I close Palestine's gate through such a recognition? Recognizing the State of Israel will embody the Balfour Declaration. This declaration will remain mere ink on paper until we, Palestinians, recognize

Israel, which will embody this declaration. Hence, the Balfour Declaration is worthless unless we ourselves hand over the land of Palestine.

PFLP-GC Group Attacks Israelis in Lebanon

JN1310072888 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 12 Oct 88

[Statement by a PFLP-GC military spokesman—date, place not given]

[Text] Out of the belief in armed struggle as a course of action and means to liberate Palestine and in support of the uprising of our people in Palestine, our combat groups continue to deal blows against the Zionist enemy and its agents.

One of the PFLP-GC commando groups planted several antitank mines on the road between Qub al-Qas'a and Dahr Kawkaba leading to the Bi'r al-Dahr mountain within the so-called security belt, which is used as a communications route by the Zionist enemy. On the morning of 10 October 1988, a mine exploded under one of the enemy's vehicles. A Zionist armored force immediately rushed to the area to search it, while helicopters overflew the area and participated in the search operation. One of the helicopters was used to transport the enemy's wounded.

On the other hand, all our comrades safely returned to base.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Iran, Pakistan, Turkey Sign Maritime Pact

LD0710102188 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 6 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—The third experts session on shipping and port affairs of the 3-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) wound up today by inking a note of understanding.

The four-day session, which opened on October 3, was attended by delegations from ECO member countries: Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. (?A) session is held annually in a member country's capital to discuss strengthening of economic ties and expansion of maritime cooperation.

At the end of the trilateral session, the Islamic Republic's shipping companny announced it was preparing a draft constitution for the 3-day nation joint shipping company and will forward it to other members' experts for comments and approval.

On chartering ships, the three countries agreed to meet each other's needs as far as possible. The Turkish delegation expressed willingness that his country will continue to serve as a transit point for Iranian goods from Europe.

In the meantime, trilateral cooperation in training fields, purchase of ships and port facilities were also discussed by the technical committee of the ECO session.

Algeria

'Constitutional Referendum' Announced for 3 Nov

NC1210170288 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, Oct 12 (AFP)—The Algerian authorities Wednesday announced that a constitutional referendum will be held on November 3 on whether to make the government more answerable to the National Assembly.

An official communique said that following the referendum, political reforms would be proposed to the congress of the ruling National Liberation Front "with the aim of making politics more democratic".

The announcement followed a week of unrest in Algeria in which 176 people have been killed according to official figures. Unofficial estimates put the toll at about 500 dead.

Presidency Statement

LD1210172888 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 88

["Statement" from the Presidency of the Republic]

[Text] Out of respect for the constitutional and legal legitimacy, the president of the Republic and secretary general of the party has decided the following:

1. By way of a referendum to be organized on 3 November 1988, a proposal for amending the Constitution shall be submitted to the people concerning a reorganization of the executive function according to which the president of the Republic—who is responsible for national defense and the foreign policy—shall choose a head of government who will be responsible before the People's National Council.

2. The announced proposed reforms for the introduction of a wider democracy into the political action shall be submitted to the FLN Congress—the organizational framework.

3. By way of a referendum, the political and constituent amendments resulting from these reforms, and which concern the National Charter and the Constitution, shall be referred to the people.

Further on Referendum

LD1310103188 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Everything is moving very fast in Algeria at the moment; there will be a political referendum as early as 3 November. The government announced this last night. It wants to do everything to restore order; as a matter of fact, there were no incidents yesterday in the capital. [passage omitted] Here is a very interesting comment on this coming referendum, which should make the prime minister accountable to parliament. This means parliament would not be a house which merely registers decrees but could give votes of no- confidence and gain real independence from the executive branch and the FLN. This would be only a first but fundamental stage, said Algerian Ambassador to France Messaoud Ait Chalal.

[Begin Chalal recording] First, I think this referendum aims at reforming the executive. This means the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the prime minister, who is normally appointed by the president, will not be accountable to the president but to the National Assembly. Second, I can tell you another referendum has been announced for after the [FLN] Congress. Its purpose is to make a thorough overhaul not only of the Constitution but also of the National Charter so that Algerian institutions can move toward more democratization. [end recording]

Messaoud Ait Chalal was speaking a few hours ago in an interview with Guillaume Durant from the French Fifth TV channel.

Government Protests French Minister's Remarks

LD1210141388 Algiers APS in English 1340 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, 12/10/88 (APS)—France ambassador to Algiers was convoked today at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Great protests of the Algerian Government were expressed to him following the declaration of the French minister of cooperation and development relating to the situation in Algeria. This declaration was considered as inadmissible and as intolerable interference in the country's local affairs.

The attention of the French diplomat was besides drawn on the seriousness of this declaration which, beyond the inacceptable value judgement it has on the national affairs, gives matter for serious thought on its real intentions at a time when the nature of things is resuming and recalls a past period.

Workers Donate Time, Money for Repairs

LD1210120388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The Algerian people have once again proven their patriotism and affirmed the principle of social solidarity. Today the cadres of Media Governorate decided to contribute to the process of rebuilding what has been destroyed by donating 3 days wages. The workers in the same governorate and its municipalities have decided to contribute 1 day's wages and/or to carry out repairs free.

Another initiative has also been taken by a private construction company, which has decided to donate building materials and/or to carry out the repairs free for 2 of 3 days. In Khenchela Governorate workers at a farm equipment company in El-Mehmal municipality have donated a day's pay of their monthly wages to the State Treasury as their contribution to the repair process.

10 Reportedly Die in Violence East of Algiers

NC1210183588 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, Oct 12 (AFP)—Some 10 people died when demonstrators clashed with police Wednesday at Tizi Ouzou, "capital" of Algeria's Kabylie region, witnesses said.

They added that the violence began when people demonstrating in support of President Chadli Bendjedid were joined by another group yelling "Chadli assassin!"

Two shots were heard early in the incident, the "counter-demonstrators" dispersed then rallied again, and several shots were heard moments later, apparently fired by the security forces present, witnesses said.

An AFP journalist on the spot was unable to obtain independent confirmation of the death toll. Shortly after talking to witnesses, he was picked up by police and put into a taxi back to the capital.

Witnesses added that the demonstrations followed strikes on Monday and Tuesday which had completely paralyzed the Kabylie town.

Meanwhile Wednesday, sources at Saida in the Oran District said about 10 people had been killed there and six seriously injured when security forces opened fire on Monday.

The latest incidents came after a week of rioting in which at least 176 people died, according to an official toll. Unofficial estimates put the toll at about 500 dead.

Number of Arrests Increasing

LD1210193688 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The military presence in the Algerian capital, has been scaled down following the lifting of the state of emergency this morning, but the number of arrests appears to be increasing. They involve both leftwing circles and Muslim fundamentalists, and even members of the Human Rights League, three of whom have been arrested in Oran. Miloud Brahimi, president of the Algerian Human Rights League, has reacted by calling for the release of all those arrested over the last few days for their opinions or for their trade union or cultural activism. Here is the latest on the situation from our correspondent, Claire Arsenaud-Lers:

[Arsenaud-Lers] [Passage omitted] At the same time as calm is returning to Algiers, the arrests are increasing. So far there have been 2,500 arrests in Algiers alone. Activists belonging to the illegal but occasionally tolerated communist party are high on the list of those arrested. Islamic fundamentalist circles are also affected following their first reappearance since 1984 as a divided force, but one which now has to be reckoned with. Human rights activists have also been arrested in Oran while an Algerian journalist was arrested last night. [passage omitted]

Algiers TV Views 'Hostility' of European Press

LD1210212088 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The spontaneous demonstrations which were staged throughout the country are the decisive response of the Algerians to a situation described by some European papers as the "state of collapse." This press tried with every means to prove and make believeable that Algeria had begun to sink. They are the ones who never forgave us for attaining our independence and never will do; they have not digested yet the reality of independent Algeria.

The Algerians know their problems and the person in charge of the country has talked about these problems on several occasions. The Algerians are trying, by their own efforts, to solve these problems.

However, we wonder what lies behind the amazing news flow alluding to Algeria's collapse. It becomes apparent that these news reports reflect the ulterior motives and objectives of some European press whenever it is matter of Algeria. If anyone had any doubts before today, nobody could now doubt the reality of these movies and objectives.

Many never allowed and never will allow our country to implement its own policy in various fields. The foreign media have again given us evidence of their hysteria and constant hostility toward Algeria. This is a lesson we cannot forget and we should remember it very well and be conscious of it, because the enemies of the homeland cannot be the protectors of its security from afar, nor can they be the defenders of the same people they used to kill in large numbers yesterday.

Education, Training To Resume 15 Oct

LD1210173488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] At the beginning of this news summary, here is this communique to you:

The Ministry of Education and Training informs teachers and pupils that the date for resuming studies in all of education and training institutions in the Wilaya of Algiers will be Saturday, 15 October 1988 at 0800.

Egypt

'Arafat Comments After Meeting With Mubarak

NC1210151388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has held an expanded meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. It was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's secretary for information and follow-up.

On the Palestinian side the meeting was attended by Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo; and Dr Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser.

After the meeting, 'Arafat stated that the talks with President Mubarak were, as usual, positive, constructive, and held in an amicable and fraternal atmosphere. He said that many international questions were discussed at the meeting, primarily the Palestinian issue. He stated: We always find that President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people stand firmly in their support for the Palestinian people's just cause.

He added: In view of this attitude I extend, in my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people, profound thanks and gratitude for this committed, principled, and fraternal stand of the Egyptian leader, Government, and people.

'Arafat said that the meeting also dealt with a number of important issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian uprising that our people are staging to confront the Israeli occupation. He noted he had informed President Mubarak that the Palestinian people are determined to continue this uprising, wave after wave, until the Israeli occupation comes to an end.

He said further: We discussed all international developments regarding the Palestinian issue, the importance of implementing what we all have agreed upon regarding the current developments in this issue, and the ongoing dialogues with the Palestinian leaders. These dialogues will crystallize at the PNC meeting scheduled for the end of October.

Responding to a question on whether an agreement had been reached on a venue for the PNC meeting, 'Arafat said [sentence incomplete as received].

'Arafat said that he had also discussed other issues with President Mubarak, particularly the Iran-Iraq war. He voiced his hope that the current talks between Iraq and Iran will result in achieving a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Gulf region. He said: We are proud of the results of the Iraq-Iran war and of the Iraqi Army's steadfastness on the eastern front of our Arab nation.

'Arafat stressed the importance of exerting efforts to expedite convening the international conference for peace in the Middle East, and thus to discuss the Palestinian issue as quickly as possible. He noted in this regard the Egyptian-French initiative and Palestinian efforts at the United Nations to speed up the convening of the international conference.

Asked about which date he prefers for the conference, 'Arafat said: We want the conference to be convened as soon as possible, and we are also currently seeking to convene the PNC meeting as quickly as possible.

'Arafat said: We have called for at least convening a meeting of the preparatory committee on which Presidents Mitterrand and Gorbachev had previously agreed. Their agreement, then called the Soviet-French initiative, was that a preparatory committee for the international conference would be held, similar to the preparatory committee made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council which endorsed Resolution No 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

When asked if he will leave for Moscow after his visit to Egypt, 'Arafat said that a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin is currently there holding talks with our Soviet friends.

Asked if there is anything new regarding Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, 'Arafat said: As is well known, our contacts and relations with the brothers in Amman continue. A Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu Mazin visited Jordan last week and held important talks with the Jordanian brothers.

In response to a question on the date a Palestinian state will be proclaimed, 'Arafat said: I have no right to declare this. The PNC has the right.

To a question on whether the convening of the PNC prior to the Israeli elections will achieve the desired result, 'Arafat said: When the PNC meets it does not take into consideration what is taking place in Israel. It takes into account what takes place in the interest of the Palestinian people.

Responding to a question on Yitzhaq Shamir's statement last week, that the declaration of a Palestinian state at this time would boost the Likud Party enough to win the Israeli elections, 'Arafat said: Israeli problems do not concern me. They are their problems, not mine. I am only concerned about how my people can find a place under the sun, where our children can live free on their free and independent land.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo 13 Oct

NC1310063488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo early today after a 1-day visit, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his stay in Egypt 'Arafat also participated in a political rally organized by the National Egyptian Committee in Support of the Palestinian Uprising, in cooperation with the Egyptian Press Association.

'Arafat was seen off by his political adviser Hani al-Hasan, PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qudrah.

Sudan's Al-Banna Conducts Official Visit

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC1110153588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1444 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Idris al-Banna, Sudan's State Council vice chairman, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting they discussed current developments and the situation in the Middle East. They reviewed the distinguished relations between the two countries and the agreements reached during Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's latest visit to Sudan.

'Abd al-Majid affirmed to Al-Banna Egypt's constant readiness to meet Sudan's needs and to offer all types of aid within the framework of the fraternal ties between the two peoples. Al-Banna expressed his appreciation for Egypt's stand toward Sudan and its help in confronting the flood hazards. He praised the Egyptian president, government, and people. Sudan's Ambassador in Cairo Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif also attended the meeting.

Praises Nation's Support

NC1210203388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—This evening, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Idris al-Banna, Sudan's State Council vice chairman who is currently visiting Egypt.

In a statement after the meeting, Al-Banna praised Egypt's support and assistance to Sudan to combat the effects of the floods. Al-Banna addressed thanks to Egypt's president, government, and people for this fraternal stand and these painstaking efforts in support of his country. He lauded Egypt's great role, which stems from the close fraternal ties between the two peoples.

The Sudanese official went on to say that his talks with Dr Sidqi dealt with joint projects in the agricultural domain and with the need to expedite the implementation of these projects.

He noted that the discussions touched on the pan-Arab issues and on the two countries' joint efforts to purify the Arab atmosphere as a prelude to establishing close inter-Arab relations that would strengthen the Arab nation. He added that the Sudanese issues, particularly the situation in southern Sudan, were also discussed.

Al-Banna's Mediation 'Doomed to Failure'

NC1110220788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—A press source has commented on attempts by Idris al-Banna, member of the Sudanese State Council, to mediate between Egypt and Libya. The source said these attempts are doomed to failure because for its part, Egypt has tried over the past 7 years to reconcile with Libya, without avail.

The Libyan reaction, the source added, has always been further conspiracy, vituperation, and irresponsible propaganda campaigns. Therefore, Sudan, in its current circumstances, needs Idrs al-Banna's attention more than other countries' need his reconciliatory efforts that are difficult to achieve.

Shamir's Remarks on 'Uprising' Criticized

NC1010055088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2132 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes the remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in his interview with the paper yesterday about the Palestinian issue and the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The paper says that the most important thing of note in Shamir's interview was that he stripped the Palestinian issue of all context, significance, and aim, and called the revolutionary uprising a terrorist campaign that has no way of succeeding.

The paper says in its Monday editorial that Shamir expressed a firm belief—the real reason for which we do not know—that the uprising will end because most of the Arabs of Palestine have become convinced that the victims they are sacrificing and the suffering they are experiencing are all useless.

The paper says that Shamir has admitted a number of things about which he has never thought. He admitted the existence of Palestine and its Arab people—that is, he admitted there is a homeland and people—without connecting them with the land of Israel. He may have been compelled to do this to avoid using the description "the occupied land," a description which means that there is an occupation which has to be terminated.

AL-AHRAM denounces Shamir's remark that most of the Arabs of Palestine have become convinced that their victims and sufferings are useless. The paper affirms that this conviction has not crossed the mind of anyone other than Shamir.

He misunderstands two facts. The first is that the Palestinian people launched this revolutionary uprising by their own free will, spontaneously, with resolute organiztion, determination, and collective spirit. From the beginning they had no fears regarding sacrifices and suffering. That was taken into consideration.

The second fact is that enduring these horrors came as a result of Israeli counter-violence, which has become more ferocious. Shamir has definitely pinned his alleged hope on this to end the uprising.

AL-AHRAM expresses astonishment at Shamir's remark that understanding can only be reached through negotiations. However, he did not specify the objective of such negotiations.

The paper says that Shamir thinks that the uprising has rallied world public opinion behind it, and thus he explains the developments which have taken place in the world on media and government levels since the outbreak of the uprising.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM affirms that, as in all his interviews, Shamir called for negotiations without a quid pro quo. He denied the right of the PLO to take part in any negotiations despite the fact that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, according to world unanimity and international resolutions, even if Israel objects.

Turkish Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1210145488 Cairo MENA in English 1445 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 12 (MENA)—The Turkish minister of industry and commerce left here today at the end of a four day visit at the invitation of Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusri Mustafa.

In a predeparture statement the Turkish official said he discussed with Dr. Mustafa means of boosting and regulating exchanged trade between the two countries. A number of agreements on custom tariff were also discussed, he noted.

The Turkish minister also attended the inauguration of the third Islamic trade exhibition and the opening of the new opera house.

Soviet Envoy, Al-Baz Discuss Bolstering Ties

NC1110133688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev. They discussed the steps that are necessary to bolster relations between Egypt and the USSR in the various political, economic, trade, and cultural domains.

In a statement after the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said he briefed Dr al-Baz on the various developments that recently took place in the Soviet Union. He added that his talks with Dr al-Baz touched on means to develop and modernize some Soviet projects in Egypt, such as the chemical project and the aluminium plant.

The ambassador noted that the discussions dealt with the construction of new projects in Egypt, including the locomotive plant and the Abu Qir phosphate project, as part of efforts to strengthen the relations between the two countries. The ambassador expressed the hope that the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee will meet by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, the Soviet ambassador expressed regret for the riots that had taken place in Algeria and hoped these riots would be contained soon.

MENA Interviews Navy Commander

NC1110130188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 11 Oct (MENA)—Navy Commander Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq has called on the Red Sea littoral Arab states to adopt a unified Arab security system that could ensure free navigation and safety for the ships using the Red Sea, cooperation in the field of environmental protection, and protection of the natural wealth of the seabed from theft or plunder.

He noted that the time is right for Egypt to propose this idea, in light of the resumption of its relations with the Arab world, the suspension of the Gulf war, and Egypt's good relations with Ethiopia. He expressed the belief that this arrangement would serve the interests of everyone.

In an interview with MENA military editor 'Adil 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Navy commander pointed out that Egyptian strategy depends mainly on the war industry to upgrade and modernize the Egyptian Armed Forces. He noted that the Egyptian Navy, in cooperation with the United States, has built some naval vessels, and started producing the first 23-mm naval gun in the Egyptian war factories. He said that the Egyptian naval units will be equipped with this gun, along with the Egyptian-made 'Ayn al-Saqr missile system, to upgrade their capabilities. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of his interview, Rear Admiral al-Sadiq noted that the closing of the Bab al-Mandeb strait in 1973 underscored the fact that the Red Sea is an Arab lake and that the Arab fleets are the only ones capable of controlling and ensuring free navigation in the Red Sea. He added that Saudi Arabia, the YAR, the PDRY, Somalia, Egypt, and Jordan, in addition to Ethiopia, all have a coastline on the Red Sea.

The Navy commander pointed out that this security system should not take the form of an alliance, since what is required of it is to allocate responsibilities; that is, divide the territorial waters of each of the above countries into areas of responsibility under the command of their respective navies.

A joint operations room could be set up somewhere in the central area of the waterway, in Jeddah or Port Sudan, for example, to receive the necessary data from the operations room in each of the member states, he added. He noted that under this system each country would inform its immediate neighbor, in the event of danger and brief the competent international agencies on the nature of this danger and the kind of emergency help needed, if any.

This would help the endangered country, as well as the international agencies concerned, to remove the cause of danger, whether this is marine pollution, the capsizing or burning of a ship, or attempts to steal or plunder the wealth of the seabed. [passage omitted]

Regarding reliance on Egyptian military production, the Navy commander said that the Egyptian military factories have produced the first 23-mm naval gun. This will be operated by the naval forces against low-flying aircraft. The prototype took 2 years to produce and is now being tested at military plant 54. He added that this gun will be tested very soon by naval units in preparation for its deployment in all Egyptian units. He also noted that technical cadres from the air defense forces are being trained on the Egyptian missile 'Ayn al-Saqr in preparation for its use by the naval forces.

Rear Admiral Muhamamd Sharif al-Sadiq said that, as part of the development and modernization program, a study is now underway to develop Egyptian minesweepers to enable them to operate as both minesweepers and minehunters at the same time. He said: We have thus gone ahead of some Western countries which have now started to build minehunters-cum-minesweepers, countries such as the UK, Belgium, and France. The latter, he said, has begun to make a new type of minehunting and minesweeping vessel.

He added: Our lead in making this study has proved that we are taking the right course. We benefited from the Gulf war and its revelation that neither the minesweeper nor the minehunter was of any use alone, but need to be used together.

He said that the Egyptian study which will be submitted soon to the Armed Forces General Command for adoption and implementation calls for the minesweepers to be supplied with craft that are guided toward mines under the water and other equipment that would make them a combined minesweeper and minehunter. This is based on the policy of using multi-purpose equipment in order to retionalize consumption but without affecting technical capability.

Rear Admiral al-Sadiq stressed the importance of holding joint exercises with foreign navies in view of the great benefits to the self-confidence of Egyptian units. These exercises show that we are not inferior in any way to these navies, he said, whether in personnel or officers, and that our equipment is not at all inferior to that of other navies. He noted here the importance of external contacts, the polishing of language skills, and confidence in the armaments and in officers' planning.

He added: These are not joint maneuvers but joint exercises. He noted that joint maneuvers involve training on combat missions, such as the NATO navies' exercises where roles are distributed and the training in these roles is carried out at fixed periods throughout the year. This is in contrast to joint exercises, where there are no particular combat missions but planning groups for each party simulate real battles.

In these, he said, a hostile party makes its own plans, but we do not know what they are; we only plan for ourselves. He added that commanders could be exchanged during the exercises. U.S. naval units are sometimes commanded by an Egyptian officer and vice versa. This allows us to get to know the modern tactics of other navies, he declared.

The rear admiral said that a study is being prepared now to set up an armed forces center that would repair large and small equipment, follow up all the ongoing developments in the world, overcome any problems that might result from new developments in armaments, and increase familiarity with electronic equipment and microchips, as there are no Egyptian parties operating in this field now.

Morocco

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

LD0710163388 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] New York, Oct 7 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali said the support of the Security Council to the peace process undertaken by UN secretary general in collaboration with the acting chairman of the Organization of African Unity for the settlement of the Sahara problem is an asset of wide implication.

In an address Thursday before the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly, Filali said the good offices action of Perez de Cuellar entered a decisive and concrete phase which should lead in the short run to the setting up of a cease-fire and the holding of a self-rule referendum in the Sahara.

The lasting solution to the Sahara issue is made possible by the peaceful climate that has been prevailing these last months in the Maghreban region, Filali said adding that Morocco has spared no efforts since it got independence to construct the grand Maghreb.

He recalled in this respect the summit held by the five Maghreban heads of state in Algiers last June which set up a larger commission to supervise the tasks each country was assigned to work plans and made proposals for the establishment of a Maghreban community. [sentence as received]

Filali said concerning the Mediterranean region that Morocco grants an essential importance for stability and security around the Mediterranean basin and voiced Morocco's concern over freeing the region from any nuclear threat through "The elimination of the missiles on board of the fleets stationed in the Mediterranean. [no closing quote mark received]

The Moroccan minister said Morocco signed last April accords with European Community, enlarged to Spain and Portugal, on the securing of peace and stability over the two banks of the Mediterranean as part of the Moroccan Mediterranean policy.

But it goes without saying that relations between Morocco and the EEC, Filali added, can yield fruits only if all causes of tension in the region are discarded. To reach this, the dispute over the two Moroccan northern towns of Sebta and Millela [Ceuta and Melilla] and the nearby islands still under Spanish rule should be settled to secure harmony in the Gibraltar Strait region.

On the Middle East, Filali said the mood of detente that is sweeping the world unfortunately did not concern the Middle East region which has been torn by wars and violence for the last forty years. He added Israel must withdraw from all the occupied territories of Arabs and peace will not be achieved without the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to an independent state.

He said the tragic situation prevailing in the Middle East did not spare Lebanon which has been subjected to the hardships of civil war and instability. Morocco reiterates his solidarity to the Lebanese people for the safeguarding of its territorial integrity, its national unity and sovereignty, Filali went on.

Filali also dealt with other hot spots in other regions of the world such as Kampuchea, Cyprus, Central America and the peace moves conducted in these regions for stability and economic development.

Regarding Iraq and Iran, Filali voiced Morocco's satisfaction at the acceptance by the two countries last August 20 of a cease-fire and lauded the efforts of Perez de Cuellar that contributed to reach such results.

On Afghanistan, the Moroccan foreign minister said "The withdrawal of foreign troops from the country was the sine qua non condition of a national reconciliation".

Referring to the African Continent problems, Filali dealt with the talks in Brazzaville for peace in Namibia, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Angola. He particularly laid emphasis on African indebtedness which is not adequately addressed by international instances and which should be immediately tackled in its political and social dimensions through a new strategy which takes into account the cutting down of debt serving rates.

Filali said that King Hassan II of Morocco took the initiative to convene an international conference on October 25 to discuss means likely to mobilize the efforts of the international community and the countries threatened by locusts to cope with the situation. He also said that Morocco will host the first ministerial conference on halieutic cooperation among Africa countries of the Atlantic coasts due in Rabat next March.

PLO, Israel Must Compromise on Negotiations

PM1010084488 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 3 Oct 88 pp 1,2

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Palestinians and Israelis"]

[Text] We now seem to be at a crucial turning point in the desperate crisis which has been affecting the Near East for more than 40 years.

A growing number of Zionist leaders are noticing that there is no end to the conflict despite their vast means and unconditional U.S. support, and that even the most overwhelming force is incapable of crushing the Palestinian people's will. Indeed, the Palestinian resistance has been expressed from outside through the PLO since the Zionist state was created, but, above all, there has been the uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories—an uprising which has given a new dimension to the Palestinian people's resistance and, I repeat, no force can crush the will and determination of an entire people who are making every possible sacrifice to win their freedom.

These facts are now so obvious that Israel is convinced that it is impossible to destroy the Palestinian people and that the latter are aware that their problem cannot be solved by force.

Moreover, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted this in an article published in LE MONDE on the eve of his visit to Paris on 23 September, when he wrote:

"Israel is prepared to help solve the Palestinian problem. We do not want to dominate another people, we do not want to humiliate the Palestinians. The movement I represent—it is the party which obtained the largest number of votes in the 1981 and 1984 elections—is prepared for a historic compromise which would also include a territorial element, with the aim of solving the Palestinian problem.

"I am convinced that this solution should be the result of negotiations."

Mr Shim'on Peres also said: "We are prepared to leave Gaza completely and several parts of the West Bank in which there is a clear Arab majority.

"We will ask the Israeli voters for permission to start negotiations on this point.

"As soon as we reach an agreement, we will hold a national referendum because we know that there is hope of peace and that we must continue to make every effort to safeguard the peace process.

"President Mitterrand shares my view that we must start direct negotiations as soon as possible with the other sides: the Jordanians and Palestinians."

This is, therefore, a clear change in Shim'on Peres' view since his meeting with His Majesty Hassan II in Ifrane. And, according to his statements, the Israeli foreign minister accepts the proposals which the king made to him, namely recognition of the PLO by Israel and withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian Arab territories.

So, the time has come for both sides to show realism and realize that the only solution is a negotiated political solution leading to a historical compromise, namely based on recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative and recognition of Israel's existence by the PLO. After this twofold recognition, it will be easy to hold an international conference and then to have direct negotiations on recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the reestablishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian Arab state in accordance with the Fes charter, which is still valid.

There are signs of this process on the Zionist side, and Shimon Peres has just told the French daily LIBERATION:

"This is the result of the uprising. It is also the result of a process of development. We have been in the territories for 20 years, and something must be done.... There is a demographic problem, because many Israelis do not want to lose the Jewish majority.

"The Labor Party thinks that Israel must make two clear choices: a demographic choice and a political choice. In other words, to maintain a Jewish majority in our country, we must abandon or sacrifice some territories which are under our control.

"I am prepared to have talks with any Palestinian irrespective of his background or his past, provided he recognizes Israel and renounces violence.

"The elections are a mandate for opening negotiations. I will announce that I am prepared to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with the Jordanians alone, or with the Palestinians. The three possibilities exist. I am prepared to negotiate with the Palestinians."

Moreover, Yehoshafat Harkabi, former director of Mosad, the Israeli secret service, said: "I do not want to cherish any illusions by pretending that the PLO does not represent the Palestinians. If there were a referendum, the majority of Palestinians would say the PLO represents them, not because they like its leaders or support all its doctrines, but because it symbolizes the idea that the Palestinians have the right to have a state."

Other people have said the same, because it is increasingly obvious that Israeli opinion is growing weary of this tension which has been going on for more than 40 years and the feeling that breaking point has been reached is spreading rapidly.

The time therefore seems right for taking initiatives. This is particularly true because detente in the world is growing stronger following the rapprochement between the two superpowers. This detente makes it possible to settle regional conflicts, like the Gulf war, Afghanistan, Namibia, and Cambodia. There is now a unanimous desire to see this detente spread to ensure that as much energy as possible can be devoted to general prosperity....

We are therefore convinced the time has come for the Palestinians and Israelis finally to launch a peace process safeguarding the aspirations of all sides, in short, to move forward resolutely toward a historic compromise.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on South, Other Issues

JN1010210788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Oct 88 p 6

[By Huda Tawfiq]

[Text] New York—The dialogue with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih was characterized by zeal, frankness, and a diplomatic atmosphere although the man who heads Sudan's diplomacy and foreign policy is one of the most prominent specialist doctors. He is certainly a new face for Sudan, who drew attention at the current UN session for his explicit statements and for dotting his i's and crossing his t's.

Moreover, his effort raised before the world the issue of Sudan's ordeal and placed the issue of assisting Sudan on the General Assembly's agenda.

Sudan's approach in this critical phase, its severe economic crisis, and the southern problem remain the main issues raised for discussion with Sudanese Foreign Minister Sulayman Abu Salih. He said: The Sudanese Government is sincere regarding the peace initiative, and it has extended its hand to John Garang. Although the political forces do not object to giving the southerners all the authority they want such as self-rule, regional rule, or anything else, yet we believe that the unity of Sudanese soil is a basic and important issue for the interests of both northern and southern Sudan, he added.

Abu Salih said: The rebel movement claims it does not support separation, although some voices in the south used to call for separation. Now, after the problem has been complicated and frozen, there are voices in the north calling for separation! However, we should adhere to the unity of Sudanese soil.

Replying to a question on the extent of reconciliation efforts, he adds: We are trying to improve relations with Ethiopia. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi thankfully mediated to hold a meeting between Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu. During the African summit last June, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi sent a peace message. In my capacity as Sudanese foreign minister, I delivered the message to President Mengistu to terminate the rebel movement. This initiative is a call for Garang to participate in the constitutional conference in Sudan, which will discuss all issues and problems.

Replying to a question on developments since the initiative, he said: We are still waiting, and the situation is still frozen. Good intentions are present, but there should be further and faster moves. Asked when the constitutional conference will be held, he said: We have not yet set a date for it, but the date will be set following John Garang's approval.

Regarding the situation between Sudan and Ethiopia following the summit meeting between Al-Mahdi and Mengistu, he said: Our hope is that the rebellion will end. There can be much cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia. Ethiopia has surplus electric power, from which Sudan can benefit. There are also a great many cooperation spheres. Moreover, there are attempts under way to establish a system for the entire Nile basin from its origin to its mouth, and there is a technical committee for the Nile waters based in Khartoum. Furthermore, there should be a form of stability in the region.

The Sudanese foreign minister added that a technical committee from both countries had studied all problems and concluded that it is necessary to declare good intentions, stop the hostile campaigns, give diplomats appropriate treatment, and return properties. All this has been accomplished, he said.

Regarding Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Dr Husayn Sulayman said the relationship between Sudan and Egypt is strategic. Concerning Sudanese-Libyan relations, the Sudanese minister said he had signed a statement with Libya for the sake of a unionist, strategic action. He added: We are studying how to regulate Sudan's relationship with Libya. A fruitful relationship should be established with the Arab countries neighboring Sudan— Libya and Saudi Arabia—in embodiment of the national charter.

We have held talks with Libya, he added, and the Libyan and Sudanese committees will present a joint plan that will inevitably be approved by the constitutional bodies. He zealously asserted that Sudan does not harbor hostility against any Arab country. On the contrary, Sudan works to clear the Arab atmosphere. We look forward to improving Egyptian-Libyan relations, he said. Cooperation may include the fields of oil, agriculture, ground water, and education. Sudan welcomes the resumption of Libyan-Chadian relations, and there is credibility about reaching peaceful a solution between Libya and Chad, he added.

SPLA Claims Capture of Ikotos

LD1010154588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Another enemy Army garrison in Equatoria has fallen to the SPLA.

The details: Bright Star campaign forces under the overall command of the Bright Star campaign commander have scored another major victory over Khartoum's Army in Equatoria. On Friday, 7 October 1988, Bright Star campaign forces of commando, Imotong and Murmur overran and captured the strategic garrison town of Ikotos, one of the district headquarters in eastern Equatoria. This brings the number of towns in firm SPLA control to three-in-one mans time [as heard], i.e Ikotos, Keyala, and Katire.

A correspondent accompanying Bright Star campaign forces says that the battle for Ikotos started on 4 October 1988 and ended 3 days later over parachutes when the enemy attempted to airdrop ammunition and food to their miserable soldiers.

The parachuting was expected as the only option of rescue left to the enemy. Consequently, the Bright Star campaign command waited to achieve three possible objectives at once, i.e, to obtain the parachuted supplies, shoot down the plane, and capture Ikotos. The parachuting was at 1330 hours.

The SPLA captured all the ammunition and food that was parachuted over fierce fighting that forced the enemy to abandon not only the parachutes but Ikotos as well, as they fled at 1630 hours, 3 hours after the parachuting.

As for the third objective, the C130 plane that made the airdrop was narrowly missed by Bright Star campaign air defence unit.

The remnants of the Ikotos force fled toward Uganda. SPLA forces pursued the fleeing enemy and found that they had entered Ugandan territory and are now at a place called Agoro, 3 km inside Uganda from the Sudan border. Agoro is north of Kitgum in northern Uganda. SPLA forces have taken position on the Sudanese side and have refrained from attacking these fugitive forces out of respect for the international border.

The total armed force, consisting of regular troops, militia, and police that was originally at Ikotos according to the captured documents, was 373. After the battle, 62 dead soldiers were found and buried in Ikotos.

Bright Star campaign command estimates that between 250 and 300 government soldiers have fled inside Uganda and are now believed to be between Agoro and Madiopei, heading to the Uganda Army garrison at Madiopei.

Should Uganda disarm these soldiers as they did to the Kapoeta force, then the SPLA would have no reason to attack unarmed refugees and it would be up to Uganda to dispose of them in whatever manner they choose. Otherwise, the SPLA would be very much concerned about the presence of armed Sudanese troops inside Uganda. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Cited on Withdrawal

JN1210180088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Oct (SANA)—Sudanese paper AL-AYYAM today says that the Sudanese Army was forced last Saturday to withdraw from the area of Ikoto, near the city of Torit in the Equatoria Region, after a 7-day battle with the rebels. The newspaper says that a spokesman for the Sudanese Armed Forces said that what happened is considered a tactical withdrawal to safeguard the lives of the soldiers in the area. The spokesman added that the Sudanese forces fought bravely despite the fact they were only 108 soldiers facing 1,000 rebels. He noted that the losses of the Sudanese forces are few compared with the losses of the rebels.

On the other hand, press reports said that skirmishes are being waged between the rebels and the army around the city of Nasir in the Upper Nile Region threatening the fall of the city.

67 Army Troops Killed in Fighting in Nasir

EA1210234588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Reliable sources from inside Nasir have revealed that unity campaign forces, under overall command of the chief of staff, Commander William Nyon Bany, and operational command of the zonal commander, Commander Gordon Kong Chuol, have inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy in Nasir over the last 2 weeks of heavy fighting.

According to soldiers who defected from Nasir, the enemy has suffered 67 soldiers killed, 92 wounded, 9 machineguns, 2 tanks, and 1 APC destroyed. Our sources say heavy fighting for the control of Nasir continues.

SPLA Threatens To Down Army Supply Plane

EA1210164488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] SPLA has learned from very reliable sources that the World Food Program [WFP] has agreed with the Sudan Government to rescue the Sudan Army garrison of Torit by parachuting food supplies.

These supplies have confirmed that the WFP will use a Boeing 707 and a C130 belonging to a West African airline company. The flights are scheduled to start on Friday, 14th October 1988 from a neighboring country.

The SPLA views with great concern the involvement of the WFP in the Sudanese war on the side of the sectarian, racist, and religious fundamentalist regime in Khartoum. The WFP should know that the SPLA is present in Khartoum and Juba, and whatever secret agreements and conspiracies they make with the anti-democratic regime in Khartoum will be leaked to the SPLA within 24 hours.

The individuals in the WFP that are involved in this conspiracy will be responsible for the loss of the plane and crew as SPLA will not hesitate to shoot this plane down.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Baccouche Comments on Algeria

LD1210183988 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] As you may imagine, events in Algeria are being followed on an hourly basis in the very close country of Tunisia. Up till now that government had not made any official statements on this matter, but yesterday evening for the first time Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche reacted to the events in Algeria; he was speaking in an exclusive to RFI:

[Begin Baccouche recording in French] What is happening in Algeria affects us (?as) our relations are privileged: At the political bureau today we noted with relief the development of the Algerian situation toward relaxation. We noted the opening up that President Bendjedid's speech has effected in Algeria and we hope that the situation in that fraternal country will return to calm and stability as soon as possible. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Party Examines Algerian Events

LD1110225988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Political Bureau of the Democratic and Constitutional Rally held a meeting at the Palace of the Republic at Carthage this morning under the chairmanship of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chairman of the Rally. The Rally examined the events taking place in the fraternal country of Algeria.

The Tunisian people, which has kinship and fraternal bonds with its brotherly Algerian people as well as attachments of hope for a common future, has toward Algeria today feelings of sympathy, solidarity, and the belief that the difficulties, however great, will find in the farsightedness of the leadership and the wisdom of the citizen the best means for overcoming them; a matter which makes the Democratic Constitutional Rally certain that the [Algerian] brethren will overcome this period safely and successfully. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Addresses Group of 77

PM1110095388 Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French 30 Sep 88 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Mr Escheikh: Devoting Ourselves to the Cause of Development"]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh delivered the opening speech at the 12th ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 on Wednesday [28 September].

The foreign minister, who chaired that meeting, started his speech by reviewing the development of the economic situation in the group member countries over recent years.

"Our group," he said, "has passed through a long period of upheavals, isolation, and disarray since the early eighties caused by the developed countries' growing and systematic dissatisfaction with multilateral economic relations and with the developing countries' economic and social development.

"Over these long years," the foreign minister added, "the Group of 77 has experienced great difficulty in adapting to this new situation because its members were the victims of an unprecedented structural crisis in development, aggravated by a world economic situation characterized by instability and unpredictability.

"All these factors have contributed to the growing marginalization of the developing countries' economies and the increase in pressure on their social and cultural structure, condemning many of them to poverty, to a constant struggle to survive, and to despair.

"In fact, the Group of 77 itself has been considerably shaken and has experienced great difficulty over these years in safeguarding its unity and solidarity, although it was essential to seek a new political platform and a new strategic approach."

Examining ways in which the group members can take up the challenges facing them, Mr Escheikh added: "How can we turn our diversity, our size, and our economic vulnerability to our advantage, to the advantage of the just cause of development, at a time when socioeconomic and ideological differences among states or "blocs" seem to be being inevitably eroded.

"How can we find a substitute for global negotiations intended to establish a new economic order? This requires a moral effort combined with a deep political will devoted entirely to the cause of development.

"The Group of 77," the foreign minister added, "has succeeded not only in safeguarding its unity and solidarity, but also its political courage and its innovating ability."

In this connection, the foreign minister reviewed the latest initiatives taken by the Group of 77, citing in this context the stance adopted by the group during the meetings of the special commission of the UN Economic and Social Council and asserting the "principle of the link between UN restructuring and the need to strengthen its role in the economic and social spheres."

Mr Escheikh also mentioned the Group of 77's call for an extraordinary UN General Assembly devoted to "the reactivation of the developing countries' economic growth and development."

This extraordinary session, Mr Escheikh stressed, "is particularly important because, at a time when the two superpowers have resumed dialogue for the benefit of world peace, it would be deeply worrying if developed and developing countries were unable to start urgent consultations on development." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

6 Tankers Reportedly To Revert to National Flag

LD1210110188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0927 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct 12 (KUNA)—A specialised shipping newspaper reported Wednesday that six Kuwaiti tankers are to revert to the national flag after less than a year under Liberian registry.

LLOYD'S LIST newspaper said that Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has started procedures to "re-assign" the ships to the Kuwaiti flag during the next two months.

KOTC introduced its re-registration programme last year during a flare-up of the Iran-Iraq war, the daily recalled. The company transferred 14 ships to the U.S. and Bermudian registers and these vessels consequently became eligible for naval protection by the U.S. and the UK patrols in the Gulf.

Lloyd's pointed out that the subsequent allocation of six products tankers to the Liberian flag was probably motivated by "commercial considerations". In addition, the paper noted that KOTC's newly-commissioned 35,000 tonnes products tanker, Al-Kuwaitiyah, on September 20, was now being operated under the national flag as will the other vessels in the company's new building programme.

British Army College Delegation Arrives 9 Oct

LD0910190788 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Oct (JANA)—A delegation of students of the British Royal College of Defense Studies, headed by Major General G.A.M. Evans, arrived here this evening for an official visit to Kuwait to last a few days.

The British delegation will meet the chief of Army General Staff Major General Mizyad al-Sani, and a number of senior officials of the Kuwait Army. Talks between the two sides will cover issues of mutual interest.

PDRY

Paper Interviews Al-'Attas on Unity, Arab Issues

JN0910214888 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Oct pp 16, 17

[Interview with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, by Hamad Jasim al-Sa'id in Aden—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] Have there been any contacts between you and Iran since the cease-fire in the Gulf?

[Al-'Attas] No. There have been no specific contacts between us and the Iranians since the cease-fire. But our relations with the Iranians are good and normal. There were no specific contacts.

[Al-Sa'id] Haven't you been expecting to have a role in pushing forward the peace process if asked to do so?

[Al-'Attas] Certainly. We have been calling for an end to the war since it broke out. Our position on this question was firm. We felt that the war was not in the interests of either party. We called for an end to the war and for dialogue and negotiations to solve problems arising between neighbors. The problems between Iraq and Iran can be solved through negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Do you support your country's joining the GCC? Have there been contacts in this regard?

[Al-'Attas] In fact, we appreciate and highly admire the experience of the GCC. Over the past period, we have felt that this experience was good and achieved a great deal in the interrests of our peoples in the Gulf. While we appreciate and respect the union, we constantly look forward to promoting this union so that it contributes more to the development of our peoples and our nation's issues, whether on the level of the peninsula or the entire Arab nation.

The relations of the two parts of Yemen with the GCC countries are good and distinguished. This is perhaps due to geographical proximity. Understanding is good between the GCC countries and both parts of Yemen. In fact there has been no direct dialogue so far on this issue, but things will follow their normal course. Our relations are good and developing. Perhaps our task in Yemen is to unify the two parts and achieve any form of union. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] What about plans for unity between the two parts of Yemen? Where have these plans reached?

[Al-'Attas] The unity of Yemen is the hope of every Yemeni and the strategic goal for the achievement of which our people are struggling. There have been many dialogues and meetings with our brothers in the northern part over the past period. These are aimed at finding the best ways and forms to begin the unification process. We are seeking to achieve practical, tangible steps based on existing and tangible Yemeni reality. In light of these steps, we may be able to promote this new entity and future unity action between the two parts of Yemen.

We have two responsibilities. The first is a Yemeni responsibility. Our people want unity. They want it to be established on sound and firm bases so that it may continuously develop. This makes us examine carefully all ways to achieve unity. The second responsibility is a pan-Arab one. Yemeni unity consolidates the unity of our Arab nation. This cooperation is promoted to cover the entire region. If the unified Yemeni state is established and strengthened, it takes a more comprehensive pan-Arab dimension. We, therefore, are discussing with our brothers in the northern part a group of resolutions and views on the best ways to achieve Yemeni unity.

[Al-Sa'id] We have heard, Mr President, that the proposed constitution has now been presented to the two parts. What is the reality of this?

[Al-'Attas] In fact, the constitution was prepared. The consitutional committee completed the draft constitution in 1981. But it was supposed to go through various stages, which it has not passed through since 1981. The process has been stopped since then. Now this issue is among the proposals we are discussing. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Why are there no joint economic and industrial projects between the two parts of Yemen—especially in the field of joint investment of the joint oilfields—knowing that there were recent reports on signing an agreement for cooperation in the field of oil exploration?

[Al-'Attas] This is one of the important prospects for strengthening integration between the two parts of Yemen and in the unity process between the two parts. On 4 May, the two parts signed an agreement to establish a joint area to explore and invest oil in Yemen. The extent of the area was 2,200 square km and was meant for joint investment. Arrangements and discussions between the oil ministers in the two parts are currently under way to put this project into effect and prepare the articles of association for the company that will operate and invest in this project. This was agreed upon, and arrangements for this agreement are under way. We feel that this will be one of the vital economic projects linking the two peoples as the first step. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Do you think the time is right for the proclamation of a Palestinian state and government-in-exile?

[Al-'Attas] The PDRY has always supported the cause of the Palestinian brothers, their struggle and right to self-determination, and their legitimate representative, the PLO. There have been some developments in the Palestinian question, including what has come to be called the uprising of the stones, marking an important event in the history of the Palestinian people. It has shifted balances and led many to rethink their positions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Have you been in touch with the Americans by way of balancing out your ties with the Soviets?

[Al-'Attas] The USSR and the United States are superpowers. As is the case with other nations, our relations with both the United States and the USSR are built on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. There have not been any direct contacts since our relations with the United States were severed. Not that the United States and the PDRY are not thinking of reinstituting ties. Our relations, at times, suffered due to interference in the PDRY's domestic affairs. We would welcome ties with any country in the absence of interference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Observers of the PDRY's policies sense serious steps and ongoing studies toward an economic openness in order to lure foreign investment. What do you have to add to that?

[Al-'Attas] We are carrying out studies toward that end in the spirit of an investment act already passed.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you favor Egypt's return to the Arab League?

[Al-'Attas] Our relations with Egypt were restored recently. The embassies are now open with full staff. The ambassadors will be exchanged soon and have already been nominated. We feel that Egypt carries weight in the Arab world. The Arab nation and causes suffered when Egypt broke ranks with the Arabs. As the most populous Arab country, with considerable political and economic clout, Egypt is still held in high regard by the Arabs. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Legitimate, central authority has been absent in Lebanon for 13 years now. What is your position on the Lebanese situation?

[Al-'Attas] Every time there seems to be a breakthrough in Lebanon, things become complicated again. We support whatever efforts are made to rid Lebanon of its long-standing problems and reunite its land and people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How far have your efforts on behalf of national reconciliation gotten?

[Al-'Attas] Things are satisfactory in the northern part of the homeland. Last year's file has been closed. Many people have been returning, things are now proceeding satisfactorily, and national unity is making headway. [passage omitted]

YSP Leader Wishes Nu'man 'Speedy Recovery'

LD1110185588 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, spoke by telephone today with Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to reassure himself about his health.

He conveyed his congratulations and those of the members of the Political Bureau on the success of the operation performed on the brother prime minister this morning in a hospital in London, the British capital. He wished him a speedy recovery.

Vietnamese Delegation Arrives for Silver Jubilee

EA1110210688 Aden ANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Aden, 11 Oct (ANA)—A Vietnamese delegation, led by [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and deputy prime minister, arrived in Aden this morning to take part in our country's celebrations to mark the silver jubilee of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the party. The Vietnamese delegation was met on arrival at the airport by Comrade Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and minerals, as well as the reception committee.

Omani Minister Arrives for Jubilee Celebration

JN1210182288 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] His Highness Faysal ibn 'Ali ibn Faysal Al Bu Sa'id, minister of national heritage and culture, arrived in Aden today as the representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id in fraternal PDRY's celebration of the jubilee of the 14 October Revolution and the YSP. His highness was received at Aden Airport by Ahmad Muhammad Jarhum, Yemeni minister of culture and information, and the Omani Embassy staff in Aden.

His Highness Faysal ibn 'Ali made a press statement upon his arrival in which he said: I am honored to represent His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on this important and happy occasion and to join our PDRY brothers in celebrating the jubilee of the 14 October Revolution and the foundation of the YSP. His highness affirmed that the purpose of this visit is not only to join in the celebrations, but also to strengthen ties between the two fraternal countries, especially in the cultural fields.

Saudi Arabia

ICO Information Ministers Issue Communique

LD1210231788 Kuwait KUNA in English 2015 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 12 (KUNA)—The Islamic information ministers ended here Wednesday their second closed-door session under the chairmanship of Saudi information minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

The session was addressed by information ministers from Tunisia, Syria, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Somalia, the PLO, Mali, Oman, Sudan, Benin, Jordan, Guinea and Mauritania as well as the Algerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the North Yemeni deputy information minister and senior officials of ALECSO [Arab League Eduactional Cultural, Scientific Organization], the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation and the Islamic Researches Center and the foreign and defence minister of the Turkish Cyprus.

They highlighted the conference's importance and said it is a turning point in the history of Moslems and opens new ways of constructive cooperation among Islamic states in the field of information.

Information ministers, or their representatives, from 44 Islamic countries Wednesday night wound up two days of talks here with a communique voicing support to the Palestinian uprising and hailing the peace triumph that ended the eight-year old Gulf war.

Information ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) started talks here yesterday in the first such Islamic gathering. Following their second meeting today a final communique endorsed an Islamic information program to support the Palestinian ongoing upheaval against Israeli occupation.

The conferees voiced support to the firm and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to return to their national homeland, self determination and establishing their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital under leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The communique described the cesation of the Gulf war as a triumph for Islam and Moslems.

The ministers expressed optimism and hoped a just and permanent peace between Iraq and Iran would be achieved through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

The communique added that such peace should guarantee Iraq's historial rights, ensure its sovereignty on Iraqi soil and waters, prevent interference in each other's (Iraq and Iran) internal affairs and lead to security and freedom of navigation in the Gulf waters.

The ministers expressed great concern over the current situation in Lebanon as they stressed keenness on preserving Lebanon's independence, unity, Arabism, and absolute sovereignty.

As it condemned Israel's occupation of Lebanese territories and its continuous attacks on civilians, the communique demanded an unconditional immediate Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon in accordance with UN resolutions. The communique welcomed Geneva accords stipulating Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan and hoped that the pullout would continue according to an agreed timetable.

The ministers called on Islamic information to be concerned with the sanctity of the two holy mosques to ensure the performance of al-Haj with great security and calmness.

As the communique recalled the disturbances during al-Haj season of 1987, it underlined the ministers' opposition to riots inside the holy shrines.

The communique hailed the resumption of talks aimed at solving the Cypriot problem calling on Islamic informational bodies to cooperate with the Turkish-Cypriot information to provide the Islamic world with a true image of the situation of the Turkish-Cypriot community.

The ministers announced support for Libya's right of sovereignty on its lands and territorial water and to protect it from foreign aggression. The ministers also condemned racist policies of the Zionist entity and South Africa.

Coast Guard Chief on Combating Drug Smuggling

PM1210143788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Oct 88 p 20

[Interview with Staff Lieutenant General Ahmad 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Bahlal, Coast Guard director general, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bunyan] What efforts have you made to carry out the task of guarding the boundaries and coasts of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom? And is it possible for us to know the extent of the success you have achieved?

[Al-Bahlal] Like any other security forces belonging to the Interior Ministry, the Coast Guard General Directorate works to carry out its tasks and perform its duties on the borders and coasts of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom by applying the border security system. The organ plays a major role in guarding borders and coasts in order to eliminate all types of smuggling. This is in addition to its other security and military tasks. The organ employs all its resources and capabilities in this regard. It also exerts great efforts with other sectors to achieve the supreme security objectives in order to establish the stability and security to which every citizen aspires. [passage omitted]

I would like to point out that the Coast Guard, with help from Almighty God, has managed in the past period to carry out very successful operations, seizing various types of forbidden things and arresting large numbers of infiltrators.

[Al-Bunyan] It was announced recently that you had uncovered major operations aimed at smuggling drugs into the Kingdom. What is the story of these operations and were they major operations?

[Al-Bahlal] No one is unaware of the grave danger of drugs and their destructive role as well as their effects in health, social, economic, and security terms. [passage omitted]

With the help of Almighty God, who has mercy on his people in this country, the Coast Guard has managed to achieve good successes, arrest numbers of smugglers of various nationalities, and seize large quantities of various types of drugs via numerous border operations in the north, south, east, and west. The contents have been revealed.

[Al-Bunyan] A concept of international and regional cooperation has emerged in recent years. What aspects of cooperation and coordination do you maintain with similar bodies in the Arab states and the GCC states? And how do you view this cooperation and its future?

[Al-Bahlal] The process of combating drugs in the world can in no way bear fruit and produce effective results unless international efforts are united and pooled in order to work constructively according to studied plans. [passage omitted]

We in the Kingdom call for and strongly support any efforts to find a formula for common international cooperation, especially in the area of exchanging information; this is essential, because it would then help to combat that destructive pest. We also concentrate on the fields of regional cooperation among the Arab states—the neighboring states in particular. Understanding and coordination are maintained through security conferences which are held now and then, comprising specialists from the Arab states. Their results have always been positive and fruitful.

Praise be to God, effective joint coordination is being maintained among the GCC states in the field of combating drugs. We would not be exaggerating if we said that we have reached an ideal level of understanding and cooperation in the field of exchanging information as well as in other fields. Obviously this is a natural exension to the understanding and cooperation already being maintained among the GCC states at the various levels. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Paper Interviews Salih on Unity, Arab Affairs

JN1210172888 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 11 Oct 88 pp 16-17

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Muhammad Jasim al-Sa'id in Sanaa; date not given] txt [Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] The unity committees made great progress in preparing for this big Arab dream. Can we know the steps taken to achieve unity between the two parts of Yemen and when do you expect this unity to be declared?

[Salih] There is no doubt that if the two parts of Yemen are not reunited they will be exposed to all dangers and jolts from which people who are living under the same circumstances suffer. The leadership of the two parts feels the tribulation of our people as a result of this situation created by the painful tyrannical and colonialist circumstances of the past.

We always try to get rid of this heavy burden by taking many practical steps to reunite Yemeni territory through sound and democratic ways based on constructive dialogue. The most important and prominent steps were taken during this year, that is, the agreement on the citizens' movement between the two parts by using the identity card. This was accurately implemented and produced important and positive results in the life of the people. The other agreement reached is related to the joint investment project for drilling oil resources in the common area.

Great progress was made to accomplish this project. This is in addition to the economic integration and the coordination of stands on the most important Arab and international issues. This is the basic principle to build a strong and united Yemen so as to become a brick in the edifice of comprehensive Arab unity—the hope of our Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

The draft constitution of the state of unity will be presented soon, God willing, to the Consultative Council and People's Assembly in the two parts. Then it will be presented for people's referendum. We believe this will be the most important step of unity because it will take the unity action to the constitutional stage to implement the procedural and transitional measures defined by the draft constitution of the state of unity.

[Al-Sa'id] There is talk now about the establishment of a Palestinian state. You embrace the Palestinians. Can we know your opinion on the establishment of a Palestinian state? And do you believe that this will end the Middle East crisis quickly?

[Salih] Yemen, like the rest of the Arab countries, is following up with great concern all the new developments in the Palestinian arena out of the belief that the Palestinian issue concerns the entire Arab nation. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a Palestinian affair. We respect the Palestinian decision that defines the just course of this issue. We support and back all steps that guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

We believe that the Palestinian issue has gained a big victory inside and outside thanks to the escalation in the popular uprising in the occupied territory and the coherence of the Palestinian people. Many peoples who were captive to the hostile Zionist propaganda understood the issue. And the world today interacts with efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to this issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel often threatens the Red Sea countries through statements by its officials. Has the YAR taken any precautionary measures to prevent the Israeli enemy from aggressions on fraternal Yemen, especially since there are Palestinian forces on its territory?

[Salih] All the countries of our Arab nation from the East to the West are a target of the Zionist enemy. The forceful Israeli entity is based on aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab territories. It also uses its aggressive operations to handle its internal situation where the Israeli society is living a state of anxiety strengthened by the Zionist feeling that the Zionist entity's existence was formed only due to aggression and the existence of the Israeli society will not continue except through the use of the policy of aggression and provocation on the Arab peoples. We in Yemen pay no attention to such statements because we strongly believe that the Arab nation is able, through its solidarity and unified ranks, to solidly confront any dangers an Arab country might be exposed to. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] The United States has taken a negative stand on Iraq based on allegations that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Kurds, especially after the beginning of the Iranian negotiations. How do you evaluate this campaign at present?

[Salih] We have already announced our country's stand and indignation at this unjust campaign carried out by some U.S. circles which aim, in the first place, to slander Iraqi sovereignty and interfere in its internal affairs by propagating such totally unfounded rumors. Actually, we are expecting many hindrances on the road to peace to hamper the ambitions of the two Muslim nations in Iraq and Iran to live in peace and security.

[Al-Sa'id] The two U.S. candidates, Bush and Dukakis, are competing in their statements aggressive to the Arabs, especially concerning making Jerusalem the capital of Israel. What do you think of that and do you think that such statements serve the interests of peace in the region?

[Salih] There is no doubt that Zionist forces have influence in the United States which should not be dismissed easily. Despite that, we do not care about the statements made by the candidates. We deal with policies and decisions produced by the U.S. Administration and the statements which come from inside the White House or from an official in the U.S. Government. Nevertheless, we were not surprised at such statements which do not serve the interests of peace in any way.

[Al-Sa'id] Does the YAR intend to apply for membership in the GCC and what is your evaluation of its march now?

[Salih] Yemen is a part of the peninsula and the Gulf. Therefore it blesses all steps to unify the region and make it prosperous.

We are happy that the GCC has, as an honest start, unified all parts of the Arab lands in the region and is working toward achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

'Aziz Explains Legitimacy of 'Awn Government

JN1210130888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Commenting on recent statements made by sources belonging to the government of Salim al-Huss regarding Iraq's stand on the situation in Lebanon, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated the following: Iraq has always called and is still sincerely and seriously calling for safeguarding Lebanon's independence, unity, and its undoubted Arab affiliation. Iraq has used and will continue to use all means to resist the plan to partition Lebanon and turn it into sectarian statelets. This is because this plan is a Zionist one, and is not only aimed against Lebanon, but also against the region's states, particularly Iraq. This plan was aimed against Iraq in the seventies and was embodied by the alliance among the Zionist entity, the shah's regime, and agent Barzani.

It was also aimed against Iraq through the alliance between the Zionist entity and the Khomeyni regime to carry out an aggressive 8-year war against Iraq. In its struggle against the partitioning plan in Lebanon, Iraq is defending its national entity and that of the Arabs. However, we must must be frank regarding facts. Who seeks to partition Lebanon with the Zionist entity? Is it part of the Lebanese people that is represented by this or that side, or is it another side that has benefited just as the Zionist entity benefited from the state of division and fragmentation in Lebanon?

After 12 years of the reckless Syrian presence in Lebanon under the slogan of safeguarding Lebanon's unity and independence, we find that Lebanon's unity and independence are threatened. All the honest Lebanese, who can express their opinion without fear, have for a long time been convinced that their country is the victim of collusion between the Zionist entity and the Syrian regime, which use all means to prevent the unification of Lebanon and the restoration of normalcy to it.

Recent events have confirmed this fact. The Syrian regime is responsible for obstructing the presidential elections when it insisted, after failing to impose a president that belongs to it, on conducting the elections in an area over which its forces have full control. This made the majority of the Lebanese deputies refuse to meet in this area.

And now, when reasonable and neutral proposals are being made to hold a session for the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies away from the pressure of guns by any side, some voices were raised and manipulated by the Damascus Government saying that the problem is not one of electing a president, but of political reforms. This means obstructing the presidential elections and keeping the situation as it is. In other words, this means the existence of two governments in one country, without a president, and until further notice. This suspect stand indicates once again which party seeks to entrench the partitioning of Lebanon.

Regarding the constitutional situation in Lebanon, all those who have read the Lebanese constitution and the political history of Lebanon, know that among the authorities of the president, if a new president could not be elected, is the authority to appoint a government to run affairs in Lebanon. There is a previous case in Lebanon's history that is known to all the Lebanese.

Therefore, our stand, which considers General Michel 'Awn's government a legitimate government from a constitutional viewpoint, is confirmation of our respect for the Lebanese constitution and legitimacy, and not bias toward any party. However, regarding the political representative nature of 'Awn's government, the government of Al-Huss, regardless of the constitutional legitimacy, cannot be more representational than 'Awn's government. This is because the government of Al-Huss now includes ministers who only represent one Lebanese party after the representatives of the other party withdrew following the end of the former president's term and the formation of a new government.

All those who are sincere to Lebanon and those who have a desire to prevent the partitioning of Lebanon should unhesitatingly work to secure the convocation of a free and safe session of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to elect a president who will act as an indispensable symbol for Lebanon's unity and independence. Iraq will recognize the president who is elected freely, and the government this president forms, regardless of the name of the president or the prime minister he chooses.

Jasim Calls Iranian Regime 'Abnormal Phenomenon'

JN1310064088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has affirmed that Iran's failure to attend the first ICO information ministers' conference is something natural, as the conference calls for cherishing the values of virtue and tolerance and also because the conference is an Islamic one attended by representatives of all advocates of true Islam.

In statements to reporters in Jeddah this evening, the minister said: Iran's failure to attend the conference is something natural that provides further evidence corroborating that the Iranian regime is a regime that has reneged on the Islamic consensus. The minister added that the Iranian regime is an abnormal phenomenon amongst all states of the Islamic world. He added that this regime was forced to reconsider its policies when it was faced by the strong Iraqi strikes which exposed its intentions and shattered its dreams of expansion, conquest of territories, and desecration of holy sites.

The minister pointed out that the Iranian regime is heading toward collapse and bankruptcy on all levels. He added that the Iranian peoples have reached a deadlock because of this regime's failure to carry out any program pertaining to their lives. The culture and information minister held the Iranian regime responsible for the slander campaigns to which the true Islamic religion is being subjected by Zionism and imperialism. He added that Zionism and imperialism have benefited from erroneous Khomeyniite practices like the advocation of violence, extremism, terrorism, and assassination to distort the image of Islam before the world public.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that the issue requires that urgent and persistent efforts be exerted by all those concerned with information organs to explain the concepts of the true Islamic religion and its pillars to offset the deviation represented by the Iranian regime. He pointed out that all conferees met bearing in mind the image of the Iranian regime, adding that some of those conferees made explicit statements on this, while others remained silent.

The minister affirmed that this regime perpetrated horrendous crimes against the Muslims, the Iranian peoples, and the region's peoples. Latif Nusayyif Jasim added that those concerned must continue to expose and bring to light this regime, so that this regime can be diminished on its territory. He affirmed that Iran falsely and unjustly claims that it is leading the Islamic world, and the argument confirming this falsehood is that it caused great harm to Islam and introduced into Islam rites and considerations that are neither contained in the holy Koran nor in the prophet's traditions. He said that the greatest evidence we advance to corroborate this is what Khomeyni did when he organized the riots in Mecca under the guise of "the march of purity".

The minister continued: The decisive confrontation of this sedition by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had a great role in ending these eccentric practices which are alien to Islam after Iran went to excesses in its violation of Islamic tenets, traditions, and history.

The culture and information minister described the first ICO information ministers' conference as successful and said that its results reflected the conferees' intention to implement this far-reaching information policy. He added: The action strategy drawn up by competent Saudi agencies and the deliberations conducted by the committee of experts, if approved, will bring forth an information process emanating from the tenets and concepts of the Islamic religion—a process that will have a great effect on the informational and regional levels.

The minister stressed the need to activate the work of the conference's secretariat and the follow-up committee to implement the resolutions that have been agreed upon so that they can be turned from the status of wishes to the status of interaction among all Islamic states, including the Arab world. He added the resolutions adopted would give a strong impetus to an information effort, whether this were to be on the level of coordination or on that of the exchange of expertise. He went on to say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its moral weight had a great role in rendering the conference a success.

Jalal Talabani on Kurdish 'National Rights'

*PM1210142488 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish
6 Oct 88 p22*

[Interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Secretary General Jalal Talabani by Manuel Martorell in Madrid; date not given]

[Text] Madrid—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the main guerrilla groups combating Iraq's Ba'thist regime, swears that "until the Kurds' national rights are guaranteed there will be no peace on the Iranian-Iraqi border."

He told DIARIO 16 that there will not be a repetition of the events of 1975, when the Algiers Treaty between Iran and Iraq caused the annihilation of the Kurdish revolt headed by the legendary General Barzani, as his forces were deprived of Iranian logistical support. The present cease-fire "will not mean a repetition of the 1975 situation because the Kurdish revolution has decided to vigorously continue the struggle to attain its objectives," he said.

The PUK, which forms a common front with the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Iraqi Communist Party, wages an armed struggle for the recognition of the Kurdish people's right to self-determination. However, it does not reject negotiations with President Saddam Husayn, who excluded it from the amnesty offered to the rebels. "We believe in the struggle in all its aspects—political, cultural, and military—and one of the techniques of the struggle is negotiation. If he is willing, so are we, but we do not trust the Iraqi Government," he explained.

Talabani, who is in Madrid to attend a conference on the Kurdish people organized by the Latin American and African Political Studies Institute, also blames the international community, and especially the United Nations, for the "genocide" being suffered by that minority in Iraq. "The chemical bombardments, which reflect a policy of genocide, constitute a violation of human rights."

He said that "all the countries of the world and the United Nations must respond to this violation. We welcome the resolutions of the U.S. Congress and Senate condemning Iraq, but it is not enough. The USSR, France, and the United States have supported Iraq by supplying it with weapons and finance."

According to information supplied by the rebels, the offensive launched by the Iraqi Army involved 60,000 troops in four infantry divisions and two brigades of special forces, backed up by tanks, artillery, helicopters, and aircraft. The confrontations are apparently continuing both in the mountain areas and in the regions of Kirkuk, Arbil, and Sulaymaniyah. In these operations, chemical bombardments have killed 3,000 civilians and caused a mass exodus of over 100,000 people.

One of the aims of the visit to Madrid is to ask the Socialist government to adhere to the European Parliament's 12 September resolution recommending "the suspension of all weapons supplies to Iraq and of exports of chemical substances or materials that could be used to manufacture chemical weapons."

Talabani responded categorically when asked whether this has eliminated the resistance: "The resistance has not been, and will not be, annihilated. Those who have fled are not the peshmerga but defenseless civilians who had no choice but to seek refuge in Turkey to save their lives."

One of the most striking differences between the present generation of Kurdish rebels and previous uprisings is the relinquishment of tribal and personal bonds and the adoption of up-to-date party organizational structures and modern tactics of insurgency.

The PUK—an example of the new Kurdish organizations—blames the 1975 defeat on the errors made by leaders such as Barzani.

In contrast to the parochial attitudes of the former Kurdish "masters of war" of Iraq, Iran, or Turkey, the present peshmerga are seeking a common strategy.

In this connection Talabani said that "Kurdistan is a nation divided by force. This nation has common friends, enemies, and objectives, which is why we are going to seek a joint strategy for all parts of Kurdistan, including Turkey and Iran."

Common problems include obligatory cultural integration and resettlement to alter the balance in areas inhabited by Kurds.

"Following the Iraqi Government's policy of Arabization, the inhabitants of hundreds of Kurdish villages have been moved and replaced by Arab inhabitants. A total of hundreds of thousand of Kurds have been moved to southern Iraq or Iran."

Istanbul Paper on Kurdish 'Five-Party Alliance'

NC0410090888 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 2 Oct 88 p 13

[Cemal Celebi and Aziz Aykac report: "A Five-Party Alliance']

[Text] Van, (HURRIYET News Service)—The Kurdish peshmerga and militants affiliated with the Iraqi Unity Party, Iraqi Socialist Party, Iraqi Communist Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and the Kurdish Democratic Party, which have united their forces against the Iraqi regime, have called on the Kurds who have sought shelter in Turkey to return to the battlefronts. In a call it made through the Voice of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the five-party alliance said that the peshmergas in Turkey should return to the Xakuruk and Mendelin regions [names as published], which have been the scenes of bloody clashes.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi military forces have set fire to the areas evacuated by the Kurds in northern Iraq. It has been reported that their objective in burning the forests and anything else that could be set ablaze in the region is to remove all effects and traces of chemical arms.

According to the latest information conveyed to Turkish intelligence units by reliable sources, Kurdish Democratic party leader Mas'ud Barzani has been appointed the head of the political wing of the five-party alliance and PUK leader Celal Talabani has been charged with the task of heading its military wing.

The five-party alliance has issued a call through the Voice of the Kurdish Democratic Party, which can be heard in the southeastern border region of Turkey, instructing peshmerga who can carry arms to return to the battlefronts and join the ranks of the alliance. The alliance requested that the peshmerga assemble in the Xakuruk and Mendelin regions, which were the scenes of bloody clashes, noting that serious losses had been inflicted on the Iraqi military units during these clashes.

A Turkish official has said that the fires in northern Iraq were clearly seen from the Samanli area in the Semdinli District. He asserted: "According to information we have received from various sources, the effects and traces of chemical arms can be removed by intense fire and smoke. I am convinced that Iraq has used chemical arms against the Kurdish peshmerga and that the area was set ablaze to remove the effects of the chemical arms and to prevent Turkey from being affected."

Sudanese Defense Minister Arrives With Delegation

JN0810203388 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 8, INA—General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, Sudanese Defence minister today arrived here leading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

Speaking to INA on arrival, Gen. Khalil said his visit aims at boosting standing brotherly ties between the two countries and for congratulating Iraq on the victory achieved for attaining peace.

The delegation accompanying the Sudanese minister comprises the deputy chief of staff and several high ranking officers.

Meets Defense Minister

JN0910120388 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 9, INA—Iraqi Minister of Defence General 'Adnan Khayrallah met here with the Sudanese Defence Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and discussed with him brotherly relations between the two countries and means of developing them to serve the Arab issues.

During the meeting, General Khalil extended greetings of Sudan on the Iraqi decisive victory over the Iranian aggression and extended in the meantime the Sudan's thanks for Iraq's attitude in supporting Sudan to confront the crisis of floods that hit it.

The Sudanese minister stressed his country's wish to find fields for promoting cooperation ties with Iraq at all levels.

General Khalil had arrived in Baghdad yesterday leading an official delegation on a several day visit to Iraq.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN1010105188 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 10, INA—President Saddam Husayn, commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces received General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Sudanese minister of defence.

The Sudanese minister extended to President Husayn congratulations of the Sudanese president, government and people on the decisive victory realized by Iraq in its just battle in defence of Iraq and the Arab nation.

During the audience, General Khalil expressed thanks to Iraq for its fraternal stand in support of Sudan during the floods disaster it had faced.

Close fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and means of consolidating and developing them in all fields were discussed during the audience.

The audience was attended by General 'Adnan Khayrallah deputy commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, minister of defence as well as the president's secretary.

RCC Vice Chairman Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Letter

JN0810115688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has received a written message from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. 'Abd al-Latif Faysal Thuwayni, adviser at the Kuwaiti amir's office, handed Ibrahim the message during a meeting today. During the meeting they discussed fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to strengthen them. Major General Thuwayni arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit to Iraq.

Interior Minister Returns from YAR Visit

JN0810203288 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 8, INA—Mr. Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of interior today returned here after a few days official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic.

During the visit, the Iraqi interior minister held talks with his Yemeni counterpart, 'Abdallah Barakat tackled means of boosting cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries. [sentence as received]

Vice President, Saddam's Son Return From Cairo

JN1110154988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, vice president, and RCC member returned to Baghdad this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he attended the opening ceremony of the Egyptian Opera House.

The delegation accompanying the vice president comprised Mr Qusay Saddam Husayn.

Ship Leaves Khawr al-Zubayr for Gulf Port

JN0810161588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Khawr al-Zubayr, Al-Basrah, 8 Oct (INA)—The Panamanian ship "Kanasia" [name as received], left the port of Khawr al-Zubayr in the valiant Governorate of Al-Basrah for an Arabian Gulf port yesterday.

With the departure of the "Kanasia," Iraqi ports have bidden farewell 11 foreign ships since the cease-fire went into effect on 20 August.

PRC, Foreign Ministry Deny Trade Accord

TA1310104388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The PRC is denying reports it signed a trade agreement with Israel and that an Israeli scientific liaison office is soon to be opened in Beijing. The Beijing Foreign Ministry spokesman said that his country has no economic or trade ties with Israel.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem also denies signing a trade agreement with the PRC. The Foreign Ministry refused to comment on reports that a scientific representation is due to open in Beijing.

Expansion of Economic Ties

TA1310103888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Ronit Yo'eli in Beijing, and Tal Yaniv]

[Excerpt] Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, paid a secret visit to Beijing this year and agreed with senior PRC officials on the expansion of economic ties between the two countries and on initial moves toward full diplomatic relations.

In the latest diplomatic contacts, Israel agreed to purchase coal from the PRC and to sell it goods amounting to $25 million during the current year. A PRC economic delegation is due to pay an official visit to Israel next week.

[A report by Mordekhay Bassok and Hayim Margalit on page one, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 13 October, adds: "A PRC delegation consisting of trade, industry, and banking officials is due to arrive in Israel on 19 November. The delegation will remain here for 4 days. This is the first time an official Chinese delegation will visit Israel openly. The delegation is due to meet with industrialists, government officials, and political figures. Visits to industrial and agricultural plants are also planned."]

Dr Yitzhaq Minervi, assistant director general in charge of economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, is currently visiting Beijing where he reached an agreement with the PRC on expanding bilateral trade. [passage omitted]

[In a report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yehuda Sharoni on pages one and four, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 October adds that Dr Minervi "is also chairman of the government company set up to to deal with economic ties with the PRC. The company, COPCO, will handle only civilian projects. The Foreign, Agriculture, and Industry and Trade Ministries are partners in the company."]

'Intellectuals' Visiting PRC

TA1210191388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Already visiting China is a three-member delegation of Israeli intellectuals. They had been invited by Chinese officials to discuss the Arab-Israel conflict with Chinese academics. A member of the delegation, Prof Galya Golan, a Soviet [as heard] affairs expert of the Hebrew University, told us that the delegation had been given a very warm welcome. [passage omitted]

Professor Golan says her delegation raised the prospect of Israel and China establishing diplomatic relations, but the Chinese said only after the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved. [passage omitted]

Israel and China may soon be concluding an open agreement for the sale of Chinese coal to Israel. In the past the Chinese had declared readiness to sell Israel coal, but only through a third party. An official Israeli delegation is going to China soon to discuss the coal agreement.

Hungary's Varkonyi on Ties, Mideast Conflict

TA1210132588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 88 p 44

[Interview with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] What significance is there in the timing of the opening of interest offices in Tel Aviv and Budapest?

[Varkonyi] Even during the absence of diplomatic relations, Israel and Hungary maintained contacts in various fields. To my regret, economic ties constituted only a very small part of this, and the growth in economic relations has been far slower than it could have been. At its own initiative, the Hungarian Government lifted a number of obstacles in the path of developing bilateral relations, for example, in tourism. Last year over 27,000 Israelis visited Hungary, and the number of Hungarians visiting Israel has also increased.

Since the break in relations in 1967, major changes have taken place in the international arena. There is a growing recognition that the world is entering a new era of reciprocal ties between countries, and this requires expanding ties between East and West. It seems that the only way is through political solutions to controversial issues, growing mutual trust, and consideration for mutual interests. The developments which followed did not fully justify the decision we made after the 6-day war. The lack of a Hungarian-Israeli dialogue and the severance of ties did not help the chances for peace in the Middle East.

We view the opening of interest offices as an interim move. We are interested in progress, and we hope that the basis for this will slowly be laid.

[Correspondent] What is Hungary's position on a settlement of the Middle East conflict?

[Varkonyi] We view the Middle East conflict as most complex and dangerous. Hungary, both because of its relations with countries in the region and its geographic proximity, is interested in achieving a solution to the conflict as quickly as possible. We believe that a settlement can be reached only within the framework of an international conference under UN auspices, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all those involved in the conflict, including the PLO and Israel. Permanent peace cannot be reached in the Middle East without guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of the countries in the region, without realizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, without establishing balanced interests, and without abandoning the use of violence.

If the Israeli Government also contributes to creating the conditions required to convene an international conference, the momentum will increase significantly. Such an Israeli policy might also create a firm basis for expanding Israeli-Hungarian relations.

Like many other countries, Hungary views the Palestinian problem as a central factor in the Middle East conflict, and if this is not solved, it is inconceivable that a solution to the overall conflict can be found. As part of the settlement, the Palestinian people must be permitted to realize their right to self-determination, as the people of Israel have. The situation created in the occupied territories increases the tension in the region, and international opinion cannot accept the cruelty with which the Israeli Army is trying to break the opposition of the unarmed Palestinian civilian population. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Excluded From Trip to Hungary

TA1210115888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon left this morning for Hungary, but despite the official nature of the visit, the foreign minister and Sharon failed to agree on a Foreign Ministry representative. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Aviation, Tourism Delegation Arrives

TA1010094388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 88 p 8

[ITIM report]

[Text] Miklos Andriko, Hungarian minister of state for tourism affairs [name and title as published], arrived in Israel yesterday at the head of a delegation made up of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, and the largest chain of health spas. The delegation will discuss the expansion of tourism between the two countries with Tourism Ministry officials and will confer with Foreign Ministry representatives.

The delegation will also discuss aviation ties between Israel and Hungary. The opening of an El Al route to Budapest has been called off because the Hungarian aviation authorities did not agree to El Al's demands concerning flight safety and security procedures at Budapest's airport.

The delegation will stay in Israel until Thursday, and its members will tour the Galilee, Lake Tiberias, and Jerusalem.

Hungarian Trade Union Official Arrives 10 Oct

TA1110123088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 88 p 8

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] One of Hungary's leading trade union officials, Yanosh Wash, arrived here last night as a guest of the Histadrut and the Hotel Workers' Union. Wash is the secretary-general of the Hungarian Trade, Banking, and Hotel Workers' Union, which comprises some 500,000 members. During his visit, Wash will tour the country as well as meet with Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar and Trade Union Department head Hayim Haberfeld.

Shamir Interviewed on Tabah, 'Uprising,' PLO

JN0910163488 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Oct 88 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] Will Israel respect the arbitration decision? And will Tabah return to Egyptian sovereignty?

Shamir: Your question is not precisely correct. The arbitration decision did not say this clearly. The arbitrators discussed only the location of border markers, not the issue of sovereignty. Israel has its traditions in respecting all obligations, and it has so far never deviated from this position.

[Hasan] Do you think that Israeli-Egyptian relations will be cooler or warmer after Tabah?

Shamir: I always expect good, close, and more normal relations and better cooperation matching the peace agreement between us. It is in the interest of the two countries that they have good relations and courageous cooperation.

[Hasan] There is mention in the newspapers that Israel is asking Egypt to delay the implementation of the arbitration decision until after the Israeli elections.

Shamir: Israel asked for nothing. There are ideas and proposals not coming from Israel. Israel has not discussed the issue. There was no opportunity due to the holidays. I suppose that we will discuss it this week to decide on the steps to be taken with regard to the arbitration ruling.

[Hasan] What do you mean by measures and steps?

Shamir: We have to decide what to do with regard to Tabah. So far, we have been in the stage of arbitration. Now arbitration is over. The two countries must reach an agreement on how to organize life in Tabah and on what will happen to tourism and its movement.

[Hasan] There were voices demanding the demolition of the Sonesta Hotel and the Nelson tourist resort if the area reverts to Egyptian sovereignty.

Shamir: These are individual voices of some people raised in anger. I do not think that there is anyone who is seriously saying such things in Israel.

[Hasan] But in the past, Israel demolished settlements during its withdrawal from Sinai.

Shamir: There is no room for comparison.

[Hasan] Why not?

Shamir: The situation is different. In that case, there were Jewish settlements and entire cities. Now it is different. At that time, it was a tragedy for us to evacuate cities and settlements. Now it is different, particularly as we are talking about tourism only.

[Hasan] You have said that the Labor Party and the United States pressured Israel into arbitration. How can Labor decide on this when numerically Likud is equally represented in Israel's inner cabinet? Why did you not object?

Shamir: Likud did object. I explained that arbitration will lead to internal complications that could potentially bring down the government, necessitating new elections over Tabah. I did not want this to happen. However, the point was not all that important. I came out for a compromise. I thought that between nations on a peace footing, a solution worked out by compromise would be far better than one devised by legal experts. The latter option sometimes casts a shadow on bilateral relations.

[Hasan] Yitzhak Rabin contends that during the Likud years in office from 1979 to 1982, the borders at Tabah were left without demarcation after the evacuation of Sinai, thus holding Likud responsible for that lapse.

Shamir: I do not want to go into Likud-Labor differences here. What you have said is true, however. No arrangement was worked out before the withdrawal, and the problem remained unresolved. We were in agreement to seek a solution along the lines of the peace accord as provided for in Article 7, namely, that Israel is entitled to demand a compromise solution and Egypt to resort to arbitration.

[Hasan] You went on record as rejecting the peace accord. What has happened to make you change your mind?

Shamir: I did not reject the peace accord with Egypt, only the article that called for withdrawal to pre-1967 borders. I am talking about the pullout from Yamit and the other settlements. The misunderstanding arose because of my position on the settlements, although I supported the peace treaty with Egypt. In any case, I explained my reasons for my failure to vote for the treaty.

[Hasan] Where do you stand on the meeting of Shultz, Peres, and 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid?

Shamir: I always welcome such meetings. When I visited UN Headquarters, I met twice with the Egyptian foreign minister. The meeting you cite, however, was inopportune coming as it did before Israel's general elections.

[Hasan] It was the Likud that concluded the peace treaty with Egypt. Nevertheless, Likud's relations with Egypt are very lukewarm, with Labor advocating close ties. Has this cost you anything?

Shamir: We have lost nothing. It is the Egyptian Government that favors building ties with Labor.

[Hasan] Why do you think this is so?

Shamir: It is Egypt's fault.

[Hasan] Is it because you are opposed to an international peace conference?

Shamir: Opposition is permissible and possible until they convince me, but there are no cogent reasons for this. Moreover, there is no reason for the absence of relations between the Egyptian leadership and me. I am interested in and concerned with this relationship, but I do not know why the Egyptian leadership decided to hold contacts and have relations only with part of the Israeli Government. This serves neither Egypt's interests nor the interests of peace.

[Hasan] At the European Parliament, Yasir 'Arafat announced he is searching for a De Gaulle in Israel. Will he find such a De Gualle inside the Likud? Perhaps, you are the person in question?

Shamir: When 'Arafat talks about De Gualle, he will naturally see himself as Boumedienne in Algeria, which is impossible.

[Hasan] Why?

Shamir: Because De Gaulle will be neither in the Likud nor the Alignment and also because we refuse to hand Israel's land over to 'Arafat.

[Hasan] You said it is possible to quell the uprising after the elections. How?

Shamir: I have no doubt that the uprising will end because most of the Arabs of Palestine are convinced that it is useless to offer victims and experience suffering, and that the path of violence they are following has not yet given them any favorable results. Mutual understanding with Israel can only be attained through negotiations and not through terrorism or incendiary bombs. Historical evidence has proved this.

[Hasan] Do you not think that a change in world public opinion is a success for the uprising?

Shamir: The uprising is not dragging world public opinion behind it, and there is misunderstanding between Israel and many countries. However, Israel meanwhile has excellent relations with all Western states. Israel is also an ally of the United States and has strong relations with Europe. An occasional misunderstanding about an issue should not give the Arabs illusions. There is no talk here about critical relations either with the West or the East. Moreover, both riots and the uprising have not brought about any success, and Israel can endure this situation for scores of years. The Palestinians, however, cannot endure for long and they are paying a terrible price in vain. Therefore, I believe we should terminate this and discuss a way for negotiations.

[Hasan] Israel, in a threatening tone, warned the Arab world against building chemical warfare factories. Iraq, for example, was warned, and Saudi Arabia was also warned regarding the AWACS planes. Moreover, Israel tries to obstruct any arms deal between Arab states and the West. On the other hand, Israel launched an espionage satellite. Is what is permitted for Israel not permitted for Arabs?

Shamir: Israel seeks peace, and it has no warlike intentions or objectives against any Arab state. There is no reason for the Arab states to fear Israel's military power. On the other hand, some Arab states publicly and openly say they intend to wage a war against Israel and that they need weapons.

[Hasan] Do you mean certain Arab countries?

Shamir: Yes, let us suppose there are chemical weapons in Iraq or Syria. Against whom will these weapons be used? Of course, against Israel alone.

[Hasan] And why does Isrsael supply itself with weapons?

Shamir: Israel supplies itself with weapons to defend itself, not to attack any Arab country. Israel is extending its hand in peace and is ready to sit at the negotiating table. We have no intention of launching any war against any Arab country. The Arab countries are talking about the Israeli enemy and are conducting military exercises in preparation for war against Israel. Therefore, we reject supplying the Arab countries with advanced weapons, which will be used against Israel.

[Hasan] If Egypt launches a spy satellite, how will Israel react?

Shamir: No reaction.

[Hasan] On what conditions will the Likud be ready to negotiate with the PLO?

Shamir: The PLO does not want peace with Israel but to destroy it. Therefore, there is no use in holding peace negotiations with people who reject peace.

[Hasan] Even if the PLO recognizes Israel and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338?

Shamir: This is mere talk.
[Hasan] What if the PLO recognizes Israel and the resolutions?
Shamir: Even if this takes place, it will not be serious.
[Hasan] Why do you not view it as serious?
Shamir: Because the PLO's goal is to destroy Israel. Its theory is based on the destruction of Israel in stages, including Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders and the resumption of the war. We know this from the Palestinian Charter and their ideology. The PLO exists to destroy Israel. Therefore, there is no use in holding such negotiations.

[Hasan] How can the Arab world agree on peace while Israel occupies Arab territories?
Shamir: Which territories?
[Hasan] I am talking about the territories occupied in 1967.
Shamir: There is dispute between Israel and the Arabs on the border issue. Let us sit and hold negotiations on this issue.
[Hasan] Is Israel ready to return the territories through negotiations?
Shamir: Israel is ready to negotiate without any preconditions.
[Hasan] What will these negotiations produce?
Shamir: They will center on peace.
[Hasan] You repeat the words "peace." And in return for peace?

Shamir tried to avoid answering the question, and said: Of course, peace is something important.

[Hasan] Peace in return for what?

Once again Shamir avoided answering and said: We will negotiate without any preconditions. This is Israel's position.

Egypt Ready To Postpone Tabah Talks Until November

TA1110170388 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 88 p 4

[Report by Mordekhay Bassok]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister al-Majid met with Prof Shamir, Israel's Ambassador to Egypt, yesterday afternoon in Cairo. Al-Majid made it clear that Egypt is prepared to postpone the Tabah talks until early November immediately after the Israeli elections. Al-Majid also reiterated that Egypt regards itself responsible for the Ra's al-Burqa' tragedy and that it would soon pay compensation to the victims.

It has also been learned that Egypt is prepared to cooperate on energy issues according to ideas broached by Minister Shahal. The two sides exchanged views on the PNC meeting and the intifada [uprising].

On Tabah, Al-Majid made it clear that Egypt accepted the U.S. request and out of consideration for Israel was prepared to postpone the talks on implementing the arbitrators' ruling until early November, after the Israeli elections.

Sharon: Tabah Must Not Be Returned to Egypt

TA1210141688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Bina Barzel and Gad Li'or]

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon is demanding that Tabah not be given back to Egypt.

Addressing an election rally in Upper Nazareth last night, Ari'el Sharon said that Tabah must not be returned and that we must fight to keep it.

Sharon said that Tabah is in Israeli territory and that the arbitrators' mandate, which was settled by Peres in his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, was written in such a way that it was impossible for Israel to keep Tabah. [passage omitted]

Egypt To Compensate Ra's al-Burqa' Victims

TA1010200988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Egypt announced this evening that it assumes responsibility for the Ra's al-Burqa' incident. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that this statement was made by Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to Israel's ambassador in Egypt, Prof Shim'on Shamir. Egypt has also announced it will pay compensation to the families of the casualties in that incident, but the rate of the remuneration has not yet been determined. Our correspondent notes this is the first time that Egypt has officially assumed responsibility for the killing of the Israeli vacationers at Ra's al-Burqa' 3 years ago.

Delay in Ra's al-Burqa' Compensation Noted

TA1110060488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Jerusalem has reacted to the Egyptian foreign minister's remarks that Egypt will pay full compensation to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' victims. Political sources told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that Egypt recognized its responsibility for the murder as far back as 2 years ago, and since then it has periodically stated that it will pay compensation, but has still not determined the amount to be paid or the date of payment.

Reacting to 'Abd al-Majid's remarks that Egypt will invite Israel to participate in the Cairo trade fair, the political sources said that when the official invitation is received, Israel will consider it.

Jordan Providing Funds to Hamas in Territories

TA1210054288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Jordan recently began to provide aid to Hamas, the underground organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been involved in the rebellion in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that based on talks with public figures in the territories, it appears that Jordanian aid is being given to the Hamas leadership directly by the Amman government via institutions attached to the Waqf in the territories and the Jordanian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Recently, there was also an exchange of visits.

Our correspondent points out that this is the first time that there is evidence of active Jordanian assistance to local elements which also carry out acts of sabotage. It appears that in this way, King Husayn plans to damage the growing strength of PLO supporters in Judaea and Samaria.

Jordan Cutting West Bank Ties Further
TA1210141588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan is entering a new phase of severing ties with the West Bank. These steps, however, are being objected to in Jordan itself. West Bank notables who recently returned from Amman told our correspondent that Jordan is now attempting to cut itself off from civilian institutions that operate on both banks, having already severed administrative ties. Jordan demanded that the association of professional organizations in Amman cut ties with its branches in the West Bank. The association refused.

The Jordanian Government, therefore, threatened to disband the group's management, or even the whole association. Severing ties between the two banks will present serious questions concerning the professional status of attorneys, physicians, and others, because there would be no authorized organization to award professional degrees. Jordan has also started taking measures to cut ties with agricultural cooperatives. It became known that the Jordanian Agriculture Ministry has started cutting back on agricultural imports from the West Bank. This applies even to agricultural produce that is notably missing in Jordan.

Shamir Meets With Greek Opposition Leader
TA1310100688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The leader of the Greek opposition party this morning promised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that if his party wins the elections in June 1989, he will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. The prime minister noted that Israel and Greece are both ancient states with extensive historical ties. Shamir said that he does not understand why there are no official ties between the two countries 40 years after the establishment of the Jewish state.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel adds that in 1949 Greece recognized Israel de facto, but not de jure. Despite the fact that the two countries are represented by diplomats holding the rank of ambassador, there is no official Greek Embassy in Israel and vice versa.

Mr Shamir also met this morning with the president of Fiji. Shamir proposed expanding agricultural and health cooperation between Israel and Fiji.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes EC Trade Accord
TA1310060688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has welcomed the European Community's decision to ratify its trade agreement with Israel. Spokesman Alon Li'el expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Europeans have now realized the importance of economic ties with Israel. He said the European decision would greatly facilitate both agricultural and industrial exports and would increase the scope of trade with the Community as a whole and particularly with Spain and Portugal. Last night's approval of the trade agreement with the European Parliament in Strasbourg came after two previously unsuccessful attempts. [passage omitted]

9 Journalists To Attend Moscow Congress
TA1010093588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Oct 88 p 8

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] Budapest—Nine Israeli journalists on Friday received Soviet visas to participate in the annual congress of Fijet, the world federation of travel journalists and writers, which opens in Moscow on Tuesday.

Eight of the journalists work for Israeli publications; the other Israeli is accredited to a French publication.

Israel Opposes UN Relief Group's Aid Request
TA1010071888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text]Israel opposes UNRWA's [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] request to take care of all the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria rather than only the refugees. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that UNRWA's request came as a result of PLO pressure, and now the organization is conducting a campaign in the United Nations in an attempt to recruit supporters for the General Assembly's decision to extend the UN's mandate.

Election Polls Find Left, Right Virtually Tied
TA0710140888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] With less than a month before the elections, there is still no significant difference between the two major blocs, the left and right wings of the political spectrum. This is evident in the two following surveys: One poll, conducted by the Dahaf Institute, shows the left and right equal with 60 Knesset seats each; the other poll, conducted by the Decima Institute, indicates a slight 61 to 59 advantage for the left wing.

Dahaf's poll is based on personal interviews with 662 people in the Jewish sector conducted during the 1st week of October, immediately after the election ads appeared on television. Decima's survey is based on telephone interviews with 1,000 people conducted at the end of September, before the television ads began. (The results are quoted in Knesset seats; the findings for September are given in brackets:)

Party	Dahaf forecast Left and Right 60:60		Decima forecast Slight advantage to leftist bloc 59:61	
Alignment	42	(42)	42 plus	(43)
Likud	41	(40)	37	(37)
Citizens' Rights Movement	5	(5)	9 minus	(8)
Tehiya	5	(5)	6	(5)
MAPAM	3	(3)	1	(2)
Tzomet	2	(2)	2	(2)
Center-Shinuy Movement	2	(2)	1	(1)
National Religious Party	4	(4)	4	(4)
Agudat Yisra'el	2	(2)	3 minus	(2)
SHAS	3	(3)	3	(3)
Memad			1 plus	(1)
Kakh	3	(4)	3	(4)
HADASH	6	(6)	6	(6)
Progressive List for Peace	2	(2)	2	

Editorial board's note:

With a view to maintaining absolute neutrality in the campaign, YEDI'OT AHARONOT will henceforth and until election day publish two election forecasts: one by the Dahaf Institute which has been hired by the Likud's election headquarters, and the other by the Decima Institute which has been hired by the Alignment's election headquarters. In both cases, the forecasts will be commissioned and financed by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial board.

Levi Attacks Likud Campaign; 'Discontent' in Party

TA1210111188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman, Dan Petreanu, Andy Court, and Charles Hoffman]

[Excerpt] Simmering discontent in the Likud surfaced last night as Deputy Prime Minister David Levi launched a scathing attack on his party's campaign policy. He mocked the gimmicks in its television slots, and urged supporters to refrain from all unruly behaviour.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, who campaigned in the North yesterday, also showed his dissatisfaction with the Likud campaign by planning to set out for Hungary for a week's visit starting today.

Addressing a rally in Lod, Levi warned his party's spokesmen: "Don't mess around with bluffs and imitations. Tell the truth as it is. Stop confusing things. Give the real message. We're losing our sense of proportion. Stick to the facts."

Soon afterwards, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, anticipating the increasing discord among the top Likud politicians, expressed "full confidence" in the Likud's campaign and its television broadcasts. [passage omitted]

Shomron: Reserve Duty Obligation To Decrease

TA0710172288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, says that the number of reserve duty days next year will drop from 60 to 40. In a lecture at the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv he said the IDF is managing to maintain its level of training and to reduce the number of military forces engaged in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Shomron noted that morale in the IDF has not gone down, and that polls conducted by the behavioral sciences department indicate that public appreciation for the IDF has risen recently in comparison with previous years. The IDF's self-image has also improved, resulting in a growing number of officers who extend their obligation for a career in the military.

Shomron added that there are pragmatic groups in the Arab world today who talk of the possibility of finding a solution which will not harm the State of Israel. The PLO leadership, the chief of staff added, is at a crossroads, and understands that it cannot continue to pursue the same path. Nevertheless, the PLO cannot make far-reaching political decisions now due to the divisions within its ranks. Shomron noted that if the PNC does not reach any conclusions, we will witness more acts of murder in the territories.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Bomb Dismantled in Gaza

TA1210133388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] This morning an IDF patrol in Gaza found, and safely dismantled, an explosive device intended for the soldiers. The bomb was placed south of the Al-Shaja'iyah junction. The fuse of the explosive led to a nearby olive grove. The patrolmen safely dismantled the device, conducted searches, and detained several suspects. [passage omitted]

After this morning's riots in Bayt Safafa, disturbances again broke out in the early afternoon in East Jerusalem. In the area of Al-Zahra Street stones were thrown at passing vehicles. Two cars were damaged. There were no casualties. The police detained six suspected stonethrowers.

In another incident, in the East Jerusalem central bus station empty bottles were thrown from inside a bus at policemen standing nearby. No one was hurt, and all of the passengers were taken for questioning. East Jerusalem is quiet now.

Report on 'Uprising' Tolls

TA1210134388 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 12 Oct 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 10 October, the 307th day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported a total of 227 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure does not include those killed by settlers' gunfire and other causes.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of dead is 309, including those murdered for collaborating with the authorities.

Palestinian sources, however, report a total of 388 casualties according to the following breakdown:

—261 dead by IDF fire.

—33 dead by beating and electrocution.

—63 dead by gas inhalation.

—31 dead from other causes.

Islamic Jihad Claims Gaza Attack

NC1210165288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] In a telephone call to AFP today, the Islamic Jihad organization claimed responsibility for the bomb attack which injured two Israeli soldiers in Gaza last night.

7 Wounded in Clashes

TA1210174488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Seven people were wounded in clashes with security forces in the territories today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that four rioters in Judaea and Samaria—two in the village of Maythalun, near Janin; one in Nabulus; and one in the village of Yattah—were wounded by soldiers' fire. Arab sources say the number of wounded is higher.

Three rioters were wounded in the Gaza Strip: two in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and one in Khan Yunus. The Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza is still under the curfew imposed after hand grenades were thrown at IDF patrols yesterday.

Trade Deficit Lowest in 7 Months

TA1210114688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct p 9

[Report by Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpt] The trade deficit continued to fall sharply last month to $173 million, its lowest level in seven months, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In August-September, the deficit dropped by a seasonally-adjusted 23 percent, compared with June-July. This improvement was achieved thanks to a 7-percent fall in imports and stable exports. Since the beginning of the year, the average monthly deficit has stood at $230m., 15 percent lower than the monthly average in the second half of 1987.

Net imports during the first nine months of the year amounted to $9.1 billion, up 9.5 percent from the $8.3 b. registered during the same period last year. Net experts stood at $6.9 billion, as compared with $6 billion, representing an increase of 15.5 percent.

Net exports in September came to $621 million, with industrial goods excluding diamonds accounting for 63 percent. Exports, in seasonably adjusted terms, during the last two months remained unchanged from their June-July level. [passage omitted]

Labor Ministry Figures Show Unemployment Increase

TA1210123388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 88 p 9

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] Unemployment jumped 0.6 percent in June-July this year, according to the latest Labour Ministry figures. For the second quarter of the year, the unemployment rate stood at 5.9 percent, but for the months June-July, this figure reached 6.5 percent.

But the report, drawn up by the ministry's Manpower Planning Authority, cautioned that the figure for July is so far only preliminary and is based on a smaller quantity of data than normally used.

The report also claimed that unemployment was steadily rising, but an examination of Bank of Israel figures shows that unemployment, over 1987 and the first half of this year, has not changed significantly, except for sudden increase to 6.6 percent in the third quarter of 1987 from 6.0 percent. In the final quarter of that year, the rate fell to 5.6 percent and then moved up to 5.9 percent for the first half of this year. [passage omitted]

4.5 Percent COLA Payment on 1 November

TA1310063588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Histadrut and employers representatives signed an agreement this morning on a one-time 4.5-percent cost-of-living [COLA] payment on 1 November. The agreement was signed after all-night negotiations. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch notes that negotiations on a 1-year COLA agreement will resume after the Knesset elections.

Police Seize Drugs, Suspected Smugglers Detained

TA0710155988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] Galilee District Police confiscated 9 kg of cocaine and 1.5 tons of hashish in two separate operations. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar has learned that about a week ago policemen stopped a Subaru car at a roadblock set up between Karmi'el and Rosh Pina. Cocaine was found during a search. The two passengers, bedouin of the Negev 'Arab al-'Azazmah tribe, were detained.

Today policemen stopped a suspicious looking car at a roadblock erected between 'Akko and the greater Haifa area. Hashish packed in hundreds of soles was found in the search. The driver of the car, a drug dealer from central Israel, was detained for interrogation.

Heroin Smugglers Detained

TA1010095188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Oct 88

[Text] Four people suspected of drug smuggling were detained by a Tel Aviv court on the eve of the Sabbath. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that, following a long intelligence operation, the police found in a Tel Aviv post office a package mailed from Amsterdam containing 1 kg of pure heroin. The four suspects detained yesterday are Mordekhay and Yosef Sharvit from Tel Aviv and Elat, and Ester and Shlomit Moriali from Elot and Tel Aviv. Another suspect, a resident of Giv'atayim, will be brought to court tomorrow.

Islamic Resistance Movement Analyzed

TA1010074988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (SHEL SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 7 Oct 88 pp 24, 25

[Article by Oren Kohen: "This Is the Hamas"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Israel has allowed religious movements in the territories to conduct their business uninterrupted since 1967. The ideological hostility between the religious and nonreligious Palestinian organizations has turned the religious, without any commitment on their part, of course, into a kind of ally of Israel. The Israeli authorities allowed the religious Muslims to prosper, while, in cases of violent clashes between religious and nonreligious groups against the background of morality, consumption of alcohol, and the like, the security forces closed their eyes and let the religious Muslims go after the nonreligious.

Israel particularly fostered the Islamic Mujama' Movement in the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Mujama', a legally registered association which is openly active in the Gaza Strip, is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. The constitution of the Mujama', its methods of operation, and its religious and political orientation are absolutely identical with those of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Mujama' constituted a counterweight to the PLO's nonreligious Palestinian organizations, and has prospered during the 21 years of Israeli occupation. Hundreds of mosques were built throughout the Gaza Strip when all building licenses for public and private needs were totally frozen.

The Muslim Brotherhood is an opposition front to any regime not based on Islam. As such, its members took advantage of their legal status to form a strong infrastructure and to develop positions of power and influence. At the same time, they established an internal secret mechanism as the nucleus of an underground movement. This mechanism may allow them breathing space under suppression until conditions seem ripe to them for beginning the jihad.

The organization members usually take care not to use their real names. They also avoid potentially provocative acts of opposition. Referring to their goals, they emphasize the socioeducational aspect: activity in mosques, hospitals, schools, and clubs. Our goal, they say, is to work to satisfy the desire of God and his prophet, to materialize the ideals of Islam, to strengthen relations among the Muslims, and to expound the teachings of the Koran.

Lurking behind this modest declaration of intent is, in fact, the Muslim Brothers' desire to revive the Islamic state of Muhammad's days, whose constitution is the Koran and whose boundaries extend from Morocco in the West to Pakistan in the East.

The Mujama' organization in the Gaza Strip is formally led by Dr Ibrahim Yazuri, the owner of a pharmacy on Al-Wahdah Street in Gaza. He declares that this legal association was founded for the realization of social goals only, that it does not advocate violence. He is escorted by bodyguards everywhere because of his fear of members of adversary organizations. About 2 and ½ months ago an unknown person burned his car. A short while later in the Gaza Strip, the door of the building belonging to the Red Crescent, an organization led by Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, who is identified with the nonreligious leftist organization, was set on fire. This was seen by some as linked to the other case of arson.

The person considered the actual leader of the Mujama' is Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is aided by Mahmud al-Zahrah, an ideologist and spiritual leader of the Muslim Brothers. Yasin, 51, is paralyzed from the neck down. It is said that the paralysis is a result of the torture he underwent in an Egyptian jail. Others say the paralysis was caused by a bomb explosion. His house is in the southern part of Gaza, and when his physical condition gets the better of him, one may find him lying on a mattress in one of the rooms of his house with his followers seated in the courtyard, ready to do his bidding at any time.

In 1984 a huge cache of weapons and sabotage materials were discovered in the house of Shaykh Yasin, and he was detained. During the interrogation he and his men said that the arms were not intended for use against Israel. The leftists in the Gaza Strip are inclined to believe him. The weapons, they believe, were collected for an internal war. Yasin was brought in his wheel chair to the military court in Gaza with a blanket on his knees and the Koran in his hand, and was sentenced to 12 years in jail. He was released in the prisoner exchange deal with the Jibril organization in May 1985.

Some view Shaykh Yasin as the person who set up the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], as a counterweight to the nonreligious Muslim organizations and the Islamic Jihad movement, which became popular in the Gaza Strip, eating away at the power of the Hamas.

The organizational structure of the Muslim Brothers in Israel resembles that of this movement in the neighboring countries:

The basic unit is the "branch" ("shu'ba"). In other places this unit is called the "family" ("usra"). Each branch is headed by a management, led by a chairman ("na'ib"), or president, with one or two deputies at his side, as well as a treasurer. The management of the branch ("hayat al-idara") is its leading body. The branches are subordinate to a nationwide command but actually operate with almost complete autonomy.

There are groups of scouts in many branches ("al-firaq al-kashafa"), sometimes termed "rovers" ("jawlah"). Each such group is headed by a person called the "head (ra'is) of the rovers," or the "commander (qa'id) of the scouts." The branches cultivate group activities such as sports, courses, and the like.

There are three types of membership in the Muslim Brotherhood organization:

A. "A participant" ("mushtarik") or "candidate" ("taht al-ikhtiyar") should be at least 20 years old and a Muslim who maintains the Islamic code of morality. The participant conveys in writing his desire to belong to the movement, support it, obey it, and pay a monthly membership fee.

B. A full member, "an activist" ("'amil"), is one who was in the lower grade for at least 6 months and fulfilled his duties to the satisfaction of his superiors. Members must prove they know the organization's constitution and principles and must swear allegiance ("bay'a") to the chairman of the branch, as follows: "I swear by the Almighty to obey and persist in disseminating the call ("da'wa") of the Muslim Brothers, and to commit myself to it and to the jihad. I swear to abide by the conditions of membership, to place my full trust in the leadership, and to listen to and obey it in everything. I swear to this by God, and God is a witness to my words."

C. "A supporter" ("mu'adir") is the third type of membership. This is a sort of honorary membership the management confers on a person who is not really a member, nor subject to conditions, but who extends aid, financial or otherwise, to the organization.

The Muslim Brothers regularly use the sermons given in the mosques on behalf of their ideology. It is from the mosques that protest parades and demonstrations start after the prayers, and it is in the mosques that the activists circulate leaflets and invitations to activities.

Besides the activity in the mosques, the Muslim Brothers regularly organize events that attract crowds in order to disseminate their doctrine and collect contributions. Such activity is reflected in soccer games in the Gaza Strip. The players and the crowds pray together before the game, half way through it, and afterwards as well as after every goal. After the game the organizers ask the audience to remain seated, and then they collect contributions. Sport occasions are compatible with the ideology of the Muslim Brothers. They view them as preparation for the campaign against the Zionist enemy, as well as a unifying element which produces friendship among the movement's members.

For 21 years the Muslim Brotherhood operated in the Gaza Strip without restrictions, and its action was thorough and meticulously planned. Everything was aimed so that at the right moment many thousands of dedicated members were ready to follow the call of the leaders. The organization has succeeded in doing this without attracting the attention of Israel, sometimes to the point of being criticized for what the radical organizations termed "inactivity." In fact, since October 1986 the members of the organization have been in an uncomfortable public information situation.

Ironically the Mujama's success was one of the reasons for the Muslim Brotherhood's awkward position. The Mujama' has succeeded in causing many of the Gaza Strip's inhabitants to repent. Among them were a large number from the intelligentsia, and they did not settle for social activity inside the community, but rather decided to start the jihad without waiting for historical processes. [passage omitted]

The Muslim Brotherhood movements in Palestine (those in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank who are linked to the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan) differ from those in other countries in that they make the success of jihad conditional upon the liberation of Palestine. The Palestinian movement is the only one which has defined its struggle as a national struggle ("watani") since the 1940's. In the Jerusalem constitution, published in 1946, the path of the organization was defined in a clause called "nationalistic patriotic" (watani qawmi"), which emphasized that action must be taken for "saving Palestine and maintaining the wholeness of the Arabic and Muslim fatherland in all its parts." These trends of Palestinian patriotism were further developed in the following years.

The affinity of the Muslim Brotherhood members to Palestine, and especially to Jerusalem, is mainly religious. Their main argument for liberating the entire country is that Jerusalem occupies the third most important place in Islam. The West Bank organization has even gone farther by stating that God prefers Palestine to any other Arab state. The Muslim Brotherhood believes that the liberation of Palestine is the first step toward the establishment of the large Islamic state, rather than a nationalistic solution for the Palestinians.

The charter defines the Islamic resistance movement as a "unique Palestinian movement which is acting toward hoisting God's flag over every bit of Palestinian land." It represents the idea of Palestine's liberation as one of three circles—the Palestinian, Arabic, and Muslim circles.

"The Islamic resistance movement is worldwide... it has been prepared for this by its clear ideas, noble aims, and lofty aspirations. This is how it should be seen, evaluated, and recognized. He who denies its rights, hurts its supporters or conceals its role is tempting destiny... it has been a link in the chain of jihad vis-a-vis Zionist occupation ever since the uprising of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1936 and through the jihad of the Palestinians and the Muslim Brotherhood in the 1948 war and the jihad actions of the brotherhood after 1968."

To those who raise arguments against the passivity of the Muslim Brotherhood between 1967 and the recent past, the writers of the charter have the following to say:

"Even if the links are far apart, without a continuity in jihad—due to the obstacles erected by those who follow the path of Zionism against the mujahidin—the Islamic resistance movement is striving to attain God's promise, even if it takes a long time.

"The Islamic resistance movement believes that Palestinian land is Islamic waqf (something consecrated—O.K.) which belongs to the Muslims forever. We must not give up any part of it whatsoever... this is the rule of Islamic shari'a, and in this it is similar to any country conquered by Muslims. This Waqf stands intact as long as the world exists. Everything in Palestine which runs contrary to shari'a is null and void.

"The initiatives and what are known as the peaceful solutions and international conferences for solving the Palestinian problem contradict the beliefs of the Islamic resistance movement. Any concession over a part of Palestine is a religious concession. The patriotism of the Islamic resistance movement is part of the Islamic charter, which states that the liberation of Jerusalem—which is the primary prayer direction and the third holiest place; the place to which the prophet was taken—is a personal obligation for all Muslims wherever they are.

The writers of the charter state that once the enemy has managed to conquer Muslim land, "jihad becomes an obligation for every Muslim man or woman. Women should participate in the battle even without the permission of her husband and the slave without the permission of his master."

This is not where the duty of woman in jihad ends: "Muslim woman has a role no less important than that of Muslim man in the battle of liberation, because she produces men. She has an important role in educating the young generation in the right path. The enemy also knows this and believes it can win the battle if it manages to lead her away from Islam... the woman at home and within the fighting family—whether as mother or sister—has a significant role in taking care of the home and raising the children... the woman must have enough awareness and understanding of how to manage the house economy with thrift... she must realize that money is like a drop of blood which has to flow in the arteries for sustaining life."

The writers of the charter claim that "the terrible enemy behaves like Nazis." It is further stated that "all the Jews are Nazis." The Jews are depicted as having taken control of the entire world:

"They were behind the French Revolution, the communist revolution, and most of the revolutions which have taken place in various places. With their money they have established secret organizations spread over the entire world and directed at destroying societies and realizing Zionist interests. Organizations like the Free Masons, Rotary, and Lions Clubs, B'nai B'rith, et cetera, are all destructive spy organizations. With their money the Jews took control over the imperialist states and drove them to occupy many countries in order to drain their resources and disseminate their corruption in them.

"This is what they have done regarding local and global wars as well. They were the cause of World War I, in which they managed to destroy the Islamic Caliphate state, to make material profits, and to gain control over many resources... no war breaks out anywhere without their involvement in it."

Elsewhere it is stated: "The Zionist plan knows no boundaries. After Palestine they want to occupy all the area from the Nile to the Euphrates... this plan can be found in the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion.' The present situation is the best proof for what we say."

The Muslim Brotherhood does not conceal its negative attitude toward Palestinian movements which "are faithful to the communist East or to the crusading West." Even movements which do not identify with East or West, however, will eventually have to sit together with the Islamic Resistance Movement to discuss relevant issues "in a matter of fact manner which will reflect the extent to which they agree or oppose the national interest as seen according to the Islamic conception."

The charter claims that the PLO is the closet to the Islamic Resistance Movement: "It includes fathers, sons, relatives, and friends. Can a Muslim ignore his relatives? We have one homeland and one enemy; we share the shame disaster."

The Hamas movement attributes the PLO's secularity to the conditions of its birth and to the ideological confusion which has prevailed in the Arab world as a result of "the influence of the ideological occupation of the crusaders." Therefore, with all due respect to the PLO and to its achievements and without downplaying its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, we cannot exchange Palestine's present and future Islamism for secular thought.

"The day the PLO embraces Islam as a way of life, we will be its soldiers and the fuel for its fire which will consume the enemy. Until this happens—and we pray that it happens soon—the attitude of the Islamic resistance movement toward the PLO is similar to that of a son to his father, a brother to brother, or relative to relative. We share its pain when it is hurt, strengthen its hands against the enemy, and wish it good guidance.

"The writers and educated people, media officials, clerics, educators, and all other sectors of the Arab and Muslim world are called upon to fulfill their role vis-a-vis the terrible Zionist offensive, its penetration into most countries, and its control over material resources and the media with the ensuing consequences. Jihad is not limited to the armed struggle. Fighting the enemy with the right word, a good article, and a useful book, and giving support and help—all these, if they are done for God's victory, are acts of jihad on behalf of God."

It seems that the most appropriate quote expressing the aspirations of the charter's writers is what Muhammad says in the Hadith [collection of the prophet's sayings]: "The time will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them to the extent that when a Jew hides behind a tree or a rock they (the bush or the tree) say to him: Muslim, God's slave, a Jew is hiding behind me, come and kill him. All this with one exception, the tree of the Jews."

The greatest frustration of the PLO supporters in the territories following the publication of Hamas' charter stems from Israel's reaction, or more precisely, from the absence of any Israeli reaction whatsoever.

"We are talking about peace and about recognizing Israel, and you are persecuting, detaining, killing, and deporting us. The Hamas people, on the other hand, completely reject your existence, and you allow them to continue operating without bothering them," claim the PLO supporters.

Apparently Israel prefers, despite everything, to continue implementing the policy of divide and rule by means of prodding the factions one against the other. There is unanimity concerning one issue: A stalemate will only increase the strength of the Muslim Brotherhood. If this happens, we may wake up one morning and find that there is really nobody to talk to.

Deportees', PNC Members' Nationality 'Abrogated'
JN1210200188 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
11 Oct 88 p 1, 17

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN—The Jordanian Interior Ministry has issued an edict to the offices of the Passport and Civil Registration Department to issue passports valid for 2 years to all Palestinian deportees and PNC members from the West Bank who reside in Jordan.

The Jordanian nationality of approximately 3,000 deportees and PNC members—who have carried this nationality since the unity of the two banks in 1950—will be abrogated. The Jordanian decision was made as part of the administrative and legal disengagement between the two banks announced by King Husayn at the end of July.

AL-BAYAN learned that Jordanian authorities will not prevent PNC members residing in Jordan from attending the extraordinary session of the PNC at the end of October. This is because those members are Palestinians, and no longer Jordanians who are loyal to Jordan and the PLO—as in the past—according to the statement of the official departments.

Journalists Association Members Resign in Protest
JN1210213288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
11 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Amman—In an unprecedented development in Jordanian press circles, seven members of the Jordanian Journalists Association Council tendered their resignation yesterday during a meeting that Association President Rakan al-Majali did not attend. The conferees decided to hold a plenary session on 28 October to elect a president and a new council for the association.

In the letter of resignation, as stated by Deputy President Fayiz Hamdan, the president made decisions without referring to the council. The council felt that the president backed down on the issue of the association's financial rights represented by obtaining 1 percent of the revenues of all advertisements in the papers, as enunciated by the association bylaws. The council feels that the association has not been able to realize tangible results to protect the Jordanian journalists against unwelcome infiltrators who pose as journalists.

Over the past 5 years, Jordanian press establishments have been hesitant to pay their obligations to the Journalists Association despite the fact that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in a meeting with the journalists last month stressed the need to pay the journalists their share. Nevertheless, the association has not received any of the 20,000 Jordanian dinars it should have obtained from the newspapers.

Present Memo to Al-Dajani
JN1310081588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani yesterday received the president and members of the Journalists Association Council.

The council discussed encroachments on the profession with the minister and handed him a memorandum in this regard. The memorandum includes names of press offices that work in contradiction of the laws, foreign agencies that do not abide by the Association's law and names of people who falsely assume the identity of journalists.

The council requested the minister to put an end to all violations of the profession and to close the violating offices. Al-Dajani showed complete understanding of this subject and stressed the Interior Ministry's determination to put an end to everything that harms the journalistic profession.

He said that the Ministry will coordinate with the Ministry of Information and the Journalists Association to impose regulations that guarantee respect of the law and prevent the exploitation, by some people, of this honorable profession.

Sudanese Minister Arrives With Delegation 12 Oct
JN1210174288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif, Sudanese minister of housing and planning, arrived in Amman today leading a delegation on a visit to the Kingdom lasting several days. The minister told PETRA that his visit falls within the framework of the brotherly bilateral relations, the exchange of expertise, and the expansion of the existing spheres of bilateral cooperation. He said his visit is also to acquaint himself with Jordan's development achievements, especially in the field of public works and housing. He said he will acquaint Jordanian officials with the dimensions of the disaster which afflicted the sector of construction in Sudan as a result of the recent floods.

The minister was received by Eng Shafiq al-Zawayidah, minister of public works and housing; the ministry secretary general; a number of officials; and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman. The delegation accompanying the guest minister includes the director of the construction company and the director of construction planning at the Housing Ministry.

Minister Urges Expediting Al-Wahdah Dam Financing

JN1110112288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
11 October 88 pp 1,5

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES economics correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan Monday urged international agencies to expedite the process of financing more than half the cost of building a planned $440 million Al-Wahdah dam on the border with Syria.

"Jordan needs Al-Wahdah (dam) now and that cannot be stressed enough," the minister told a meeting attended by financial, technical and construction experts from seven countries and six development and financing agencies. "Our government has taken all the steps necessary to accelerate the completion of this vital project."

Speaking at the opening session of three-day "donors" meeting here, Dakhqan said the dam would increase irrigated farming in the Jordan Valley, suply 50 million cubic metres of water per year to the Amman-Al-Zarqa' area and Eastern Heights and generate electricity to satisfy the Kingdom's future needs. The construction cost of the project is estimated at JD 127.9 million. The total investment cost of the 100-metre high raisable dam is estimated at JD 176 million. Dakhqan said the funding requirement in foreign currency was estimated at JD 99.1 million.

He stressed that as the projected demand for water in Jordan will far outstrip the potential supply, "the construction of viable projects such as Al-Wahdah dam become imperative." A contract for the construction of the dam's diversion tunnel was awarded Aug. 21 and work has begun and is scheduled for completion by Sept. 1, 1989.

Dakhqan told reporters Jordan wanted financing agencies attending the conference to lend up to $260 million of the dam's total cost of $440 million, with the treasury paying the rest. The dam, first conceived as early as 1956, will be built in the northern area of Al-Maqarim to store the waters of the Al-Yarmuk River, a tributary of the Jordan River. Under an agreement signed between Jordan and Syria in September last year, the Kingdom-,heading towards water shortages in the next decade, will use all the dam's water for drinking or irrigation while Syria will get 75 per cent of generated hydro-electric power.

Officials at the meeting told the JORDAN TIMES the financing for the project from foreign agencies had already been secured in principle and that the present meeting was "more or less a formality."

"There is no doubt about financing," one official stressed. Financing agencies include the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an said in an opening speech at Monday's meeting that the dam reservoir would have a total capacity of 225 million cubic meters and a usable storage of 195 million cubic metres annually. The water, he said, would irrigate an additional 3,500 hectares in the Jordan Valley, supply 50 million cubic metres of water a year to the Greater Amman area and irrigate approximately 500 hectares in the highlands using return flow from the municipal and industrial water supply to Amman. It will also generate an average of 18,800 megawatt per hour of electricity a year and add 3.6 megawatts of dependable capability to the national electricity system.

The project, Kan'an added, will make it possible for agricultural production in the valley to be maintained at the level anticipated after completion of the conversion to a pressure pipe distribution system which is presently being built. In addition, he said, a major supply of domestic water will be made available for use in the major urban centres at a time when alternative supply sources are only available at a much greater cost.

Financing Talks in February

JN1310092588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Several Arab and foreign countries and financial organisations which took part in a meeting here to discuss financing the al-Wahdah Dam project at Al-Maqarin near the border with Syria have expressed readiness to contribute to the project, an official announcement said Wednesday.

The participants in the three-day meeting agreed to hold a second conference in Amman in February 1989 when they will discuss a comprehensive financing plan which would be ready by that time, the announcement carried by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, said. The meeting, organised by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Planning, examined means of providing $440 million for the project, which would make available up to 225 million cubic metres of water for irrigation and generate electric power to benefit both Syria and Jordan

According to Zafir al-'Alim, director of the Dams and Irrigation Department at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), the meeting reviewed different views presented by Jordan official and specialists on the feasibility of such a project, and its importance for Jordan's irrigation and drinking water projects. Participants from different countries and organisations also submitted their views and displayed clear interest in it, Al-'Alim said in a statement to PETRA. Al-'Alim said the final designs for the project were under examination and could be ready by the end of December 1988.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan accompanied delegations Wednesday on visits to the dam site where they inspected ongoing preliminary work for opening an 800-metre-long tunnel, which will be completed by September 1989.

According to an agreement with Syria, Jordan will be using the stored water mainly for irrigation and Syria will be using part of the water and 75 per cent of the total hydroelectric power generated by a power station near the dam.

Al-Huss Calls 'Awn Government 'Illegitimate'

NC1210130688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today continued to attack the usurpers of power represented by the so-called 'Awn military government. He reiterated that decisions issued by this government simply constitute a link in a chain of actions intent on fragmenting legitimate institutions and venting anger at the symbols of a defunct regime. This so-called government used to reproach us for boycotting that regime, but who are now themselves uprooting it.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that the current undermining of the administration constitutes the last link in the plot against the unity of the institutions we regard as the last bastion for defending the state's unity.

Responding to a question by REUTER, Dr al-Huss said: Some are still under the illusion that this era belongs to them. They do not wish to acknowledge that the country has emerged from one era and has not entered a new one; that our present situation merely constitutes a divide between two eras, which everybody hopes will be a short-lived. We are working toward this end.

From the very first we were aware, while others were not, that the country's disruption is an anomaly and that national duty requires us to prevent this from becoming the rule by allowing the wind of political division to blow away the administrative structure. We hope that unity of administration will remain an asset of the state until the country rids itself of the state of political fragmentation that is threatening the country's existence.

We thought we could maintain the state's unity by preserving unity of administration in every institution and ministry despite the divisions permeating the political arena. For this reason, we avoided accosting any position or official in any department or institution. We even avoided harming officials who deviated from their duty by practicing policy through the so-called military government in a manner that threatens the country's unity.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We now find ourselves compelled to declare anew that the so-called military government is an illegitimate one and, consequently, it does not exist. Therefore, everything that has emanated and is emanating from it is regarded null, void, and nonexistent. We add that using the pretext of desiring to purge the administration of symbols of the previous regime is rejected in form and content.

This is because, first, this matter should be left to the next regime that should start with the election of a president of the Republic and establishment of a new government; second, because those who are doing this are also symbols of the previous regime; and third, because such an action assumes a capacity that is not theirs but was given to them by the previous regime—the last and most serious harmful action committed by that regime against Lebanon's unity and destiny.

It is ironic that those who now rejoice for what they imagine is a purging of the symbols of a defunct regime from the administration used to reproach us for boycotting the master of that regime and, earlier, for our endeavors to expedite the departure of that regime by calling for the departure of its president. They were the ones who were defending him and attacking us. Why do they now turn the cleansing of the residues of that regime into a virtue? Let them leave virtue to the virtuous.

Al-Huss Cabinet Appoints Public Security Head

NC1310120788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn's military and administrative appointments, which were regarded at the time by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the nationalist ministers as null and void, has led to a countermeasure by the cabinet, which met in Government House this morning.

The most significant decision made by the cabinet was the appointment of Police Commissioner 1st Class As'ad al-Taqsh as acting director general of Public Security in the absence of the original director general. Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi regards the appointments made by Gen 'Awn as void because 'Awn has no authority to make appointments. [passage omitted]

Regarding the question of passports, he said: In all the measures that I will take, my only concern is to not harm the interests of citizens. I hope that I will receive the necessary cooperation.

The cabinet held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at Government House at 1015 today. The meeting was attended by Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt. The cabinet discussed the general political situation and the current conditions in the country. The cabinet discussed topics on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni: 'Awn 'Main Obstacle' to Elections

NC1210132488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has stressed that Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has become the main obstacle to holding presidential elections in Lebanon.

In an interview with AFP, Al-Husayni said that Gen 'Awn will not guarantee the safety of a chamber session for electing a president unless he is guaranteed election as president of the Republic.

Speaker al-Husayni said all the deputies are opposed to partitioning Lebanon and want the presidential elections session to be held, but their action has been paralyzed by the Lebanese Forces, which want partition.

Forces Commander Ja'ja' Interviewed on 'Crisis'

NC0710182788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'Ja' gave a comprehensive interview to France-Inter radio today, in which he explained the current situation and its future implications.

Regarding relations with Syria, a subject which is now the origin and core of the problem, Dr Ja'ja' said that Lebanon must have stronger ties with Syria than with any other country, but in order to maintain a relationship with Syria Lebanon must survive first. So how can the Syrians ask for a relationship while their army is occupying three fourths of Lebanese territory? he asked.

Ja'ja' added: Under pressure and occupation, we refuse to discuss any subject with the Syrians, be it distinguished relations or otherwise. However, we are ready to hold discussions with the Syrians and negotiate on any subject of interest to them, on a basis of understanding, within the framework of the Arab league or any other framework, he stated.

Asked how long he thinks the current situation in Lebanon—where there is no president and two governments—will last, Dr Ja'ja' said: It is true that Lebanon is a country without a president, but it has only one government, though there is another grouping that claims to be a second government. This is the truth of the matter, if we admit that there is a Constitution in Lebanon and that we still abide by this Constitution. Under the Constitution, the only acceptable government is the one formed by the president, and the president formed General Michel 'Awn's government. Whether we like and support Gen 'Awn's government or not, we must admit, at least if we wish to conform to constitutional norms, that the only legal government in Lebanon is Gen 'Awn's.

Regarding the presidential election, Dr Ja'ja' said it should be held as soon as possible. However, he said, we are not the only party concerned in Lebanon. There is another, major player, which is Syria. So far, it seems that the Syrians do not intend that the elections should be held. The very nomination of former president Franjiyah proves that the Syrians did not intend that the election should take place, he added.

Asked about the U.S.-Syrian agreement on the Lebanese election, Dr Ja'ja' stated: The Americans are our allies, no doubt about that. However, an ally can make a mistake and then go back on it.

Asked if he is sure that the Americans have gone back on their mistake, Dr Ja'ja' said: I have no doubt about that.

Ja'ja' was asked about U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' statement to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' that there will be no backing down on the U.S.-Syrian agreement. The Lebanese Forces Commander declared: If this is true, then let them make deputy Mikhail Dahir president. Why have they not brought him in as president?

He added: The U.S.-Syrian agreement is a very limited and tactical one, relating to a certain point at a certain time. I do not believe that, by means of the nomination of Dahir, the Americans will remain in harmony with the Syrians for ever. Between 23 September and now, the cards have been reshuffled anew and there will be further talks and consultations.

Ja'ja was asked whether he is optimistic about an end to the Lebanese crisis. He replied: In the end, whatever happens in the course of history is a reality. If we try to get out of this reality we fall into a vacuum. So we should never get pessimistic, no matter how enormous the events become, because these events are manmade and man is part of reality on this earth.

He added: The Lebanese crisis could be solved because there is a solution to every problem in the world. Undoubtedly, it will take some time before a solution is found, but in the end it will be solved as it should be.

Asked about the truth behind the dispute between the Lebanese Forces and former president Amin al-Jumayyil, the Lebanese Forces Commander said that the problem inherent in the military presence in northern Al-Matn is chronic. It dates back to 1975, when the regular Phalangist forces were under William Hawi and his deputy Bashir al-Jumayyil, he stated.

At that time, the Phalangist security council was able to control all the Phalangist forces except for the military forces which were under the command of Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in northern Al-Matn. Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil had often and unceasingly tried to find a solution to this problem, but in vain. Shaykh Bashir raised the problem during meetings of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau, the Phalangist Central Council, and other gatherings, but failed to resolve the problem.

Dr Ja'ja' went on to say: Finally, in 1981, the 7 July operation was carried out. This operation led to the unification of all the non-Phalangist military forces with the Phalangist forces. Despite all this, some of the Phalangist forces, namely in the northern Al-Matn region, maintained their independent status, did not join the Lebanese Forces, and stayed neutral.

This became a chronic problem. All the Lebanese Forces commanders and those who assumed the leadership of the Phalangist Party, including Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Elie Karamah, and Dr George Sa'adah, failed to solve this problem, because of Shaykh Amin's insistence on retaining a small military force at a time when all the Phalangist and other forces, whether regular or not, had been united within the ranks of the Lebanese Forces.

Responding to a question as to whether the Lebanese Forces are denying the former president the right to engage in politics now, Dr Ja'ja' said that this is absolutely not true. There is no doubt that there are some points of dispute over issues of ideology, thinking, politics, and daily political practices between us and Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. But this does not mean that we are denying him the right of political action. He is completely free to engage in political action. But military and security duality is rejected.

What happened was that the separate status of the military and security centers was cancelled and they were annexed to the Lebanese Forces. They have become an integral part of the Lebanese Forces. This is evident from the fact that not a single bullet has been fired.

Asked whether all the problems between the Lebanese Forces and Gen 'Awn, have been resolved, Dr Ja'ja' said: Yes, all of them. On the status of Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni, in the wake of rumors about his trip to Greece, Dr Ja'ja' said that the status of Attorney Paqraduni in the Lebanese Forces is the same as it was a week ago, a month ago, a year ago, and 3 years ago. There is no change. I wonder what they based these rumors on, he asked. Were these rumors based on a recreational visit that Paqraduni made with his family to Cyprus and Athens? I do not know how things get exaggerated and rumors are woven.

On the Lebanese Forces' ties with Israel, Dr Ja'ja' said: In view of the Syrian dangers that have been threatening Lebanon over the past 13 years and still do, we are prepared to establish relations with anyone in order to liberate our country. Sovereignty, independence, and liberation are not empty words. They mean practical moves.

Paqraduni on Need To Hold Presidential Election

NC1210180088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has told the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH that the election of a new Chamber of Deputies speaker offers a good opportunity to expedite the presidential election. He called for the elections for speaker and president to be held under Arab and international supervision.

Paqraduni also called on Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to take a bold step and transfer the venue for the election session [not further specified] from Al-Najmah square to Mansur Palace, because the latter is situated in no-man's-land. Paqraduni added: The president of conciliation who we hope will be elected does not necessarily have to be against Syria. At the same time, he does not have to be against the Lebanese Forces, as Syria wants him to be.

We expect a new Syrian-U.S. agreement on a candidate other than deputy Mikha'il Dahir. We know that there is a list of seven names of acceptable Maronite figures from which Washington and Damascus could choose and agree on a candidate, he added.

The Lebanese Forces deputy commander stated: We do not share the view of those who link the presidential election in Lebanon to the U.S. and Israeli elections or to the situation in the Middle East. We demand that the Lebanese presidential election be kept separate from the Middle East problem as a whole, as well as from other elections taking place in the world, and we believe that an agreement must be reached to hold the Lebanese election without preconditions, he added.

Regarding relations between the Lebanese Forces and General Michel 'Awn, Paqraduni said: Today we in the eastern areas are in a better military and security position than we have been at any time in the past 14 years. For the first time there is a fighting army side by side with the fighting Lebanese Forces, with the two parties fully integrated politically and strategically, he added. It is true, he pointed out, that the Lebanese Forces' relationship with Gen 'Awn was marked by tension and aloofness, at the beginning, but now it is conciliatory and close. The Lebanese Forces, he declared, support Gen 'Awn's government without any reservations or conditions.

Asked why Arab and foreign countries have not recognized Gen 'Awn's government, Paqraduni said: I am sure that there is an international desire that Lebanon's unity should be preserved by the holding of the presidential election. Other countries, in general, are unwilling to encourage any de facto partitionist acts, recognizing one government and not recognizing the other or recognizing the two of them. This is as far as the first international reaction goes. However, the second international reaction, which will take place soon, will be the recognition of the sole government in Lebanon, which is that of Gen 'Awn.

Attorney Paqraduni said that the most dangerous scheme that could be concocted and held in store for Lebanon would be its conversion into another Palestine. The Arab world, which is already pained by the first Palestine issue, must do whatever it can, and even more, to prevent the creation of another Palestinian problem. The Palestinian problem, he added, began with partition and has become a crisis, and the problem of Lebanon, if the country is partitioned, will become another crisis.

Paqraduni added: We appeal to all Arab leaders and officials to intervene to ensure that the Lebanese presidential election is held as soon as possible and that no second Palestine is created through partition.

France's Dumas, Shevardnadze Reject Partition

NC1310084688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Soviet and French Foreign Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze and Roland Dumas discussed the Lebanese issue in Paris yesterday, deeming it necessary to set the wheels in motion and hold the presidential elections to avert the danger of partition.

Dumas told reporters that the Soviet Union understands the role the United Nations can play to ensure that the presidential elections are held in Lebanon. He added that he had submitted to his Soviet counterpart the French plan of entrusting the United Nations with organizing the elections. Dumas emphasized that the Soviet delegation has shown interest in this plan and there is an agreement on the following three points:

1. Support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty, which implies a rejection of partition;

2. Need to work for electing a president of the Republic in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution to avert the danger of partition;

3. Need to work for achieving reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Diplomatic sources in West Beirut have disclosed that the Soviet leadership has decided to send a prominent figure to the Syrian capital soon to hold consultations on the developments in the Lebanese impasse and ways to end it. The sources do not rule out that the envoy might be Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, who has discussed the Lebanese question with his U.S. and French counterparts.

Dahir, Family Make 'Private' Visit to Paris

NC1210132388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Deputy Mikha'il Dahir and his family left Beirut for Paris this afternoon on what he termed a private visit to last several days. Asked about the duration of his absence abroad, Dahir said it will be 4 or 5 days at most. He stressed that the visit is a private one and has nothing to do with political affairs.

Dahir met this morning with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to review the current situation.

Official Says U.S. Ambassador 'Mere Envoy'

NC1310104988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In a statement made at B'abda Palace, Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lama', Foreign Ministry secretary general, has expressed astonishment that the U.S. ambassador has not visited the Foreign Ministry. He said the Foreign Ministry represents Lebanon's foreign policy. He added that for this reason he does not consider him to be an accredited ambassador to Lebanon, but a mere envoy.

Abu al-Lama' said that he discussed with Prime Minister General 'Awn the developments in Lebanon, particularly the French moves and their hopefully positive effects on the Lebanese situation.

'9 February' Claims Responsibility for Blast

NC1210114288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for the explosion which took place last night at the Cola traffic circle, saying it was targeted against a post of the Syrian occupation forces.

The organization yesterday claimed responsibility for a similar operation which took place in the area of the UNESCO building yesterday afternoon.

The Al-Faruq Battalion has claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion last night near a Syrian post, behind the Tallat al-Khayyat television building.

Claims Roadblock Blast

NC1210174988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating a 10-kg explosive device today which was planted near a Syrian occupation forces' roadblock in Al-Ghubayrah near the Shatila traffic circle. [passage omitted]

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC1310095988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0952 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft flew over Sidon and the nearby camps at 1100 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Mock Raids Conducted

NC1310114188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew intensive sorties this afternoon over the area extending from Sidon to the coastal and mountain areas of Al-Shuf, conducting mock raids. The planes drew antiaircraft fire while flying over the camps near Sidon.

Al-Shar' Comments on Lebanon, Iraq, Palestinians

PM1210110488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 88 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Text] [Matar] Before we discuss Lebanon, there is one topic, the Palestinian question, which has particularly attracted attention as the Palestine leadership considers declaring a Palestinian state, a provisional government, or something else. What is the Syrian position on that?

[Al-Shar']: We are for a Palestinian state but the question of forming a government—provisional or a government-in-exile—is a Palestinian concern and affair. If asked our opinion we would say that any PLO step that leads to more divisions and differences or more inter-Palestinian conflicts would not be a positive step. Syria still believes that the most important task for the various resistance factions is to unify their work and restore their unity.

[Matar] What is the state of Syrian-Palestinian relations, particularly as you support some parties against others?

[Al-Shar'] We do not support one Palestinian side against another. That is a Palestinian internal affair and we are not a party to it. Whatever certain people say about that is meant to be a justification for the claim that the PLO leadership's position is sound. Blaming others for the leadership's failure to unify the PLO is unacceptable.

We have repeatedly tried to improve our relations with Mr 'Arafat. During his meeting with Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] in Damascus, President al-Asad's position was clear and can be summed up in the fact that Syria considered the meeting a new page in our relations with them. We asked them to submit their concept of the kind of relations that should exist between the two sides, but the Palestinian leaders left the following morning.

If 'Arafat wanted to improve relations then he would have stayed 2 or 3 more days, but he and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) chose to leave. Everyone knows that the decision was theirs and nobody else's.

Their departure the day after their meeting with President al-Asad was proof they were not serious about improving relations with Syria.

Again, President al-Asad turned a new page at the Algiers meeting. Mr 'Arafat was told the same thing, namely that we have turned the page on the bad past and that relations between us will depend on the new positions they take to get closer to the known and declared Syrian positions, thus making a great gain for the Palestinian cause and the heroic uprising; but, regrettably, what we saw later on was profoundly negative. In other words, when Syria opened the door to the brothers in Fatah, it sincerely and seriously wanted to turn the old page and begin a new one.

[Matar] Was there no development in these relations after your meeting with [Head of PLO Political Department] Faruq Qaddumi?

[Al-Shar'] I did not sense any change.

[Matar] Let us now shift to the question of Lebanon, which has figured in all your meetings in New York. The Arab foreign ministers' conference has called for Lebanese unity. Could you give us your impressions on this matter?

[Al-Shar'] The Arab foreign ministers meeting was very important. There has also been a Sudanese call for an Arab League meeting at the ministerial level to discuss the situation in Lebanon. I have had a meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister, who told me that in Sudan they are worried about the possibility of partition in Lebanon and are resentful of the partitionist step taken in the eastern area, seeing it as a step linked to Israeli objectives.

We welcome any Arab endeavor to help Lebanon if such an endeavor is against partition attempts and in favor of keeping Lebanon united and Arab. Such an effort would be supported and welcomed by Syria and the Lebanese people.

[Matar] What is expected of the United States in this connection, bearing in mind that you have had a meeting with Secretary Shultz? Is the U.S. position still the same regarding the agreement on Mikha'il Dahir?

[Al-Shar'] The meeting with Secretary Shultz was positive and we agreed on a number of fundamental points like rejection of partition attempts and Lebanon's need for essential political reforms, national accord, and the election of a new president. Secretary Shultz conveyed to me his country's commitment to the agreement reached in Damascus.

I want to explain yet again that the agreement was not simply about the name of the new president. It was on the premise that the elections should be coupled with the political reform which Lebanon needs and East Beirut rejects.

[Matar] Now that the military clash between Iraq and Iran has come to an end there are those who believe that Iraq's Arab and regional positions will improve. There are also reports of Iraqi political and military support for the Lebanese Forces which are opposed to the Syrian role in Lebanon. Does that not worry Damascus, with the possibility of confrontation between the two countries?

[Al-Shar'] Although Syria welcomed Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, what has so far materialized on the ground is a cease-fire—no more, no less. The Iraqi leadership is contemplating tension with Syria at a time when the Iraqi people expect the end of the Iraq-Iran war to give Iraq a better opportunity to contribute, alongside Syria, to resisting Israeli expansionism and deterring possible Israeli aggression.

[Matar] I think what you mean is that the war has not finally ended.

[Al-Shar'] The question of ending the war is a complex and difficult one because of the deep mistrust between Iraq and Iran. It seems that the Iraqi side insists on abrogation or amendment of the 1975 Algiers agreement, whereas Iran declares its insistence on it.

Arab, Foreign Initiatives in Lebanon Cited

JN0810184288 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 6 Oct 88 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Paris—Highly-placed Arab sources disclosed to AL-QABAS that Syrian officials had informed several Arab and foreign states and quarters that they object to any Arab or foreign initiative on Lebanon if it is not meant to support the Syrian role there. These sources also explained the nature of the efforts that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is exerting to hold the Lebanese presidential elections as soon as possible. They stressed that Klibi cannot call for an Arab summit or ministerial conference on Lebanon nor can he go to Lebanon and Syria unless there is an agreement in this regard with the concerned parties.

These Arab sources told AL-QABAS that Syrian officials have informed several Arab and foreign states and quarters of the Syrian leadership's stand on current Arab and international moves to facilitate the election of a new Lebanese president and to help Lebanon surmount this critical stage. The Syrian officials stressed the following basic points in their Arab and international contacts:

1. Syrian leadership objects to holding the Lebanese presidential elections under UN or Arab supervision. It also objects to the dispatch of UN troops or experts or Arab forces and observers to supervise these elections, although sending Arab forces or observers has not been proposed.

The Syrian officials believe that holding the Lebanese presidential elections under Arab or UN supervision constitutes a curtailment of the Syrian role in Lebanon and aims to undermine this role by depicting Syria as incapable of providing an appropriate atmosphere to elect a new Lebanese president.

2. Syrian leadership rejects any Arab or international initiative on the Lebanese situation if its declared or undeclared aim is to weaken or curb the Syrian role in Lebanon. The Syrian leadership is ready to accept any Arab or international move to support the Syrian role in the Lebanese arena and boost Lebanese-Syrian relations. The Syrian leadership believes that weakening the Syrian role in Lebanon poses a threat to Lebanon and Syria's security and gives a chance to Israel and the forces supporting it or connected with it in the Lebanese arena to move more actively.

3. Syrian leadership is ready to participate in any Arab conference or meeting on Lebanon on any level provided that such a conference or meeting is intended to extend large Arab support for the Syrian efforts being exerted in Lebanon. But if this Arab conference is meant to cast doubt on and obstruct the Syrian role and efforts in Lebanon, Syria will boycott it and urge several Arab countries to follow suit.

4. Syrian leadership objects to any Lebanese presidential candidate other than former President Sulayman Franjiyah or Deputy Mikha'il Dahir. The reason the Syrian leadership sticks to those two candidates or one of them is that it has confidence in them and their ability and desire to carry out the radical constitutional and political reforms that are needed in the Lebanese system, consolidate Lebanese-Syrian relations, and transform Lebanon from the stage of war to one of peace.

5. Syrian leadership indicated to some foreign quarters it contacted that if they really want to help Lebanon surmount the critical stage, prevent the partitioning of Lebanon, and hold the Lebanese presidential elections as soon as possible, they should bring pressure to bear on the Christian side, which rejects the election of a president who wants to carry out radical constitutional and political reform in the Lebanese system and who wants to enhance and entrench Lebanese-Syrian relations.

In the meantime, the Syrian leadership indicated to some Arab quarters it contacted that if the Arab states really want to help Lebanon, they should bring pressure to bear on the parties that are carrying out or want to carry out activities hostile to Syria and the Syrian role in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Al-Asad-Mengistu Talks

Closed Meeting Held

JN1110191488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad held a meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam at 1100 today. The meeting was attended on the Ethiopian side by the delegation accompanying President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Dr Wahib Tannus, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Dr Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor.

At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and his guest, President Mengistu Haile Mariam held a closed meeting during which they continued the discussion of issues raised in the first closed meeting. At this meeting, the president explained the developments in the Arab region, Syria's stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in Lebanon, developments in the Palestinian arena, and the situation in the Gulf area. The Ethiopian president reviewed the situation in Africa and the Ethiopian-Arab relations.

While the closed meeting was going on, the members of the two delegations continued discussion of topics pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in party, economic, cultural, and political spheres. Comrade Dr Wahib Tannus, Dr Salim Yasin, and Faruq al-Shar' put forward Syria's viewpoints and proposals to upgrade bilateral cooperation and to translate it into agreements which underline future bilateral cooperation.

The Ethiopian side presented its viewpoints and strong desire to bolster bilateral relations and to reach agreements in this regard. It promised to send a delegation of experts to follow up details of cooperation in each field. The Ethiopian side affirmed Ethiopia's interest in consolidating relations with the Arab homeland in general. It also stressed Ethiopia's support for the Arab nation's causes, the Palestinian question, and an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Talks Focus on Mideast, Africa

JN1210150088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his esteemed guest President Mengistu Haile Mariam of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia have completed their talks which began on Monday [10 October] by holding a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1100 today.

During the talks, they reviewed the situation in the Middle East and Africa. They also reviewed the international situation, bilateral relations, and the importance of developing these relations in various spheres. They held identical views on the assessment of the situation in both the Arab and African regions and also on the importance of developing bilateral ties and cooperation to serve the two countries' struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

During the talks, the Ethiopian president affirmed Ethiopia's appreciation for Syria's progressive and central role in the region. He also asserted Ethiopia's condemnation of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. Furthermore, he voiced Ethiopia's support for the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Syrian and Ethiopian sides stressed the extreme importance of cooperation among the world's national liberation and social progress forces in the peoples' struggle for the sake of attaining freedom, peace, and progress and also for the sake of defeating the conspiracies hatched by imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

Talks End; Mengistu Departs

JN1210173688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and his wife left Damascus at 1500 today after a 3-day official and cordial visit to Syria. Heading those who saw them off at Damascus International Airport were President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife. [passage omitted] After leaving Syria, the Ethiopian president sent the following cable to President Hafiz al-Asad:

As I leave the Syrian Arab Republic following a historic visit to your great and beautiful country, it gives me great pleasure to express my sincere and deep gratitude for what you and your government have done to make our visit very fruitful and memorable. I am certain that the relations which we have established between us will enable us to work together very closely to promote our joint aims of justice, equality, and the preservation of international peace and security. At this juncture, I would like to send my best wishes to Your Excellency and and to the friendly people of the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

A memorandum of understanding was signed at the Prime Ministry this morning on the development of trade and cooperation in the economic, technical, and scientific fields between the Syrian Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The memorandum was signed for Syria by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and for Ethiopia by Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister for economic affairs. The signing ceremony was attended by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.

The memorandum assesses the available resources for cooperation in various fields and the main guidelines to carry out this coperation in the joint interest of the two countries and peoples. It also stipulates an agreement on holding future meetings for specialists to implement practical steps for cooperation.

Afghanistan

Soviet Ambassador to Kabul To Return to USSR

BK1210130488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 12 (AFP)—Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Nikolay Yegorychev will leave Kabul and return to Moscow "in the next few days," Soviet sources here said Wednesday.

The sources did not specify whether the ambassador had been recalled, but said a successor has been chosen, and diplomats from other foreign missions in the Afghan capital said they had received invitations to a farewell party for Mr. Yegorychev Thursday evening.

The Soviet ambassador's departure coincides with a crucial meeting of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) here this week in which the ruling party is widely expected to try to move towards a broader-based government to attract mujahidin resistance fighters to join a coalition administration.

The resistance has so far rejected every move made by Kabul towards a coalition to end the nine-year-long conflict, arguing that the PDPA and President Najibullah should first quit the political scene.

Moscow, for its part, is believed to be anxious to prevent a bloody escalation of the war after the departure under the Geneva peace accords of all 115,000 Soviet troops from the country, where they have been propping up the Kabul government against the Western-backed rebels.

Sharq: Regime Will Not Fight To Retain Power

BK1210171288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1701 GMT 12 Oct 88

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 12 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Mohammed Hasan Sharq said Wednesday that the Afghan Government would not fight to retain power in any coalition government with Muslim rebels, and said he would personally resign if any party tried to hang on to power.

The 63-year-old prime minister also said that the Afghan people had no more confidence in President Najibullah's Soviet-backed ruling party in Kabul than they had in the rebels.

"The people have no more confidence in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) than they have in the opposition," Mr. Sharq told a group of foreign journalists here.

Mr. Sharq, a former ambassador to India, is not a member of the PDPA. He was appointed in May and is believed by diplomats to be a possible successor to Mr. Najibullah if an interim government is formed to hold coalition talks.

His comments came on the eve of what official Afghan sources say is a crucial PDPA debate on Kabul's failure to bring the rebels to the negotiating table through its national reconciliation policy, despite a Soviet troop withdrawal scheduled to be completed on February 15.

Every advance made by the Kabul government so far has failed, with the mujahidin saying that they would have no part in a government that included the PDPA, headed by Mr. Najibullah, observers said.

"The present government is the bridge to peace, that is its only purpose. We shall not fight to retain power," he said.

"Once we have a clear view of the other side (in coalition talks) and if a party tried to hang on to power, then I shall resign," he said.

He said he would welcome former Afghan King Zahir Shah, 74, now living in exile in Italy, if he could return and contribute to bringing the warring sides together to end the nine-year conflict.

He added that he had appealed to Moscow to pressure the United States and Pakistan, who have stepped up military aid to the rebels since the Soviet troop withdrawal began on May 15, to stop the aid so peace talks could begin.

However, Mr. Sharq ruled out a cessation of Soviet aid to Kabul, saying that Moscow had been channeling aid to Afghanistan for 35 years and that military aid had been requested only to defend the country.

"How can you compare a rocket and a tank?" he asked, to back up his claim that Soviet military aid was purely defensive.

Moscow and Washington have accused each other of stepping up military aid shipments since the start of the troop withdrawal. Rockets from the United States are considered some of the most powerful weapons in the rebels' arsenal.

Mr. Sharq repeated a statement made to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE earlier in the week that no more concessions were envisaged by the Kabul government before the mujahidin agreed to talks, saying: "What more, tell me what more."

"We have no preconditions for a dialogue," he said, adding: "Preconditions would be an obstacle, our only desire is that those arming the opposition will halt so that a dialogue can begin."

He appealed to journalists to convey the message to their countries and the governments of their countries as well as to the deposed king, who has said he would not return to Afghanistan if the PDPA was still in power.

Rebels Overrun Katawaz Militia Base, Capture 900

BK1210124888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 12 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have taken an important militia base in eastern Paktika Province after heavy fighting and made some 900 people captive, resistance sources said Thursday [as received].

Mujahidin guerrillas captured Katawaz on Tuesday and seized a large quantity of arms, ammunition, military vehicles and foodstuff, they said, adding that some 500 militiamen and 400 of their dependents in the base had been rounded up.

Katawaz was the only base still controlled by the Afghan Government in Paktika Province, which borders Pakistan, according to the resistance, which has claimed a string of military victories in the province recently.

The militiamen surrendered the base after suffering heavy casualties, said the resistance sources, who gave no figures.

The pro-resistance Afghan Islamic press said guerrillas losses in the fighting for Katawaz were also heavy. One mujahidin commander lost 16 men, it said adding that the final death toll could run into dozens.

Resistance sources said Afghan militiamen in the region were badly demoralised by the withdrawal of Afghan Army troops last week from the provincial capital, Zareh Sharan.

Sources close to the resistance said here last Thursday that the Afghan Army had withdrawn from the province following the fall of Zareh Sharan on October 5.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Asadabad

BK1110131688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 11 (AFP)—Afghan rebels seized the town of Asadabad in Konarha Province Tuesday and captured nearly 500 Kabul government troops after heavy fighting which left dozens dead, mujahidin sources here said.

At least 41 soldiers of the Soviet-backed Kabul regime were killed in the assault but reports of losses were still coming in, they said.

Soviet-Afghan planes Tuesday began bombing the abandoned garrison and "liberated areas," the resistance sources said. They said the air raids were "heavy." At least a dozen mujahidin were killed by landmines in the city, they said. Asadabad, in north-east Afghanistan, is the second provincial capital to fall into rebel hands in the past week.

Resistance sources said 450 Afghan soldiers and 32 officers, including Kabul secret police KHAD agents were captured in Asadabad while many fled to Jalalabad in tanks, armoured cars and helicopters after the surprise attack.

The guerrillas seized 62 military vehicles including some tanks in perfect condition and more than 1,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles left behind by the soldiers, they said.

The rebels' major offensive mounted late Monday involved mujahidin from all the seven resistance parties under their resistance government's Defence Minister Haji Din Mohammad, the sources said.

The Afghan resistance claimed last week to have captured the town of Zareh Sharan, capital of eastern Paktika Province, after troops of the Soviet-backed Kabul government withdrew under heavy fire.

Zareh Sharan housed strategic garrisons of the Afghan Army. Asadabad was base for the Army's 9th Division and was the last regime stronghold in Konarha.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said that all of the Kabul troops in Asadabad had surrendered to the rebels and that members of the local militia had also given themselves up.

Mountainous Konarha Province, which Kabul forces have been abandoning, is now virtually under mujahidin control, and informed sources said the rebels are well armed in the region with U.S.-made Stinger and British Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles, Chinese rockets and Franco-German Milan anti-tank weapons in their arsenals.

Asadabad is just 70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of the strategic city of Jalalabad, the government stronghold in Nangarhar Province which protects access to Kabul, and its capture by the rebels could directly threaten the capital.

Fighting between the rebels and government troops has intensified during the past two weeks in the seven provinces bordering Pakistan, from where the rebels receive logistical support according to diplomats.

The regime militia have also surrendered control of Sarkani, Narang and Pusht towns also in the Konarha Province, resistance sources said.

The regime units were now in Chowki area 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of Konarha on the Jalalabad-Asadabad highway.

Pusht was known among rebels as "Afghanistan's Moscow" because of the strong communist presence in the town, a resistance leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said the mujahidin have arrested several hundred militia troops and the Afghan Communist Party's Khalq faction officers in Pusht.

The guerrillas captured Barikowt, Asmar and Darrah-ye Pich towns in successive operations soon after the Soviet troops began pulling out of Afghan garrisons from May 15 under the Geneva accord on Afghanistan.

IRNA: Mujahidin Control Bamian Province

LD1210204188 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct. 12, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin mopped up some 50,000 more residential units in Bamian Province of the defeated Kabul regime's troops during the past month, chairman of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Jihad Movement of Afghanistan announced here today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hadi [name as received] said Bamian is an important province and the first which has been under the full control of mujahidin for more than a month.

Noting that Lowgar Province is now on the brink of fall to the mujahidin, Hadi said Muslim revolutionaries have recently liberated the city of Paghman [name as received] 16 kms. west of Kabul, thus making the Afghan capital totally vulnerable. "Mujahidin have infiltrated all security barriers especially those around Kabul," he revealed.

Hoj. Hadi said Muslim revolutionaries have also captured 47 governorates and districts in 19 Afghan provinces since the beginnig of the Islamic revolution in that country.

Some 375 reels of documentary films have been produced on mujahidin's military operations, as well as the wretched situation of the occupying forces particularly around vital points of the capital, which Hadi said proves the power and domination of the mujahidin in the country.

'Extremists' Fire Rockets at Gardeyz, Balkh

LD1210172488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Armed extremists fired 25 ground-to-ground rockets today on the city of Gardeyz. Two Gardeyz city residents were wounded. Eight houses, Hazrat Rohani high school, a teachers' training school, and 'Abdul Hai Gardeyz School and two hospitals were either damaged or destroyed.

According to a report from Balkh Province, criminal extremists fired 103 ground-to-ground rockets on residential areas of Balkh District in Balkh Province killing 6 people, old men, women, and children, and injured 10 others. As a result of this criminal act seven houses and one shop were also destroyed.

Armed Forces Kill Rebels in Qandahar, Paktia

LD1210234288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] As a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces on the armed extremist groups in areas surrounding the city of Qandahar, 18 extremists were killed today and another 11 persons were injured. As a result of this mopping up operation, one rocket, one mortar, and four hideouts of the extremists were also destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the Zarin Khel and Nurasena regions, Paktia Province, on 7 October seven of the armed extremists attached to the Gulbuddin and Sayaf extremists groups were killed and a rocket unit was destroyed.

Continuing the mopping up operation by the country's Armed Forces in part of Konduz Province, 10 armed extremists attached to the Rabbani extremist group were crushed today in the surroundings of Char Dara District of this province and their weapons were destroyed.

Islamabad Notes Recent Mujahidin Operations

BK1010024588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin have attacked military installations at Kabul, Qandahar, and northern Farah Province and inflicted heavy damages on Najibullah administration forces. The mujahidin captured three mountain posts in Sarowbi District. Five soldiers of the Kabul regime were captured and a large amount of ammunition was also seized.

Another report says that a military vehicle carrying soldiers to Laghman from Jalalabad hit a mine laid by the mujahidin, killing more than 20 soldiers and wounding 13. The mujahidin launched rocket attacks on military posts at (Burjak) near Paghman on last Thursday [6 October] and destroyed two posts. They shot down a helicopter gunship on the 5th of this month. The mujahidin attacked Shahrak District in Ghowr Province and killed 12 Kabul forces and captured 10 of them.

Reports say that the mujahidin shot down three helicopters in Helmand Province last week that were carrying food for the besieged forces of the Kabul regime. Bloody fighting reported in the town of Darishak on Wednesday. It has also been reported that the Kabul forces carried out retaliatory attacks at some places and killed several innocent persons.

Ministers Attend Meeting on Security, Defense

LD1210231688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Issues relating to restoring security in the cities and highways, supplying the units and companies of the Armed Forces, and restoring security in Kabul city were comprehensively discussed today in the Defense and Security Commission of the Wolasi Jirgah.

According to a previous decision made by the this commission, Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, the defense minister; Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy, minister of internal affairs; and Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, participated. They briefed the commission on the restoration of peace and security in the localities and Kabul city, supplying the units and companies of the Armed Forces, safeguarding security along the highways, and on the transportation of foodstuffs from the country's ports. They gave assurances that they will remove the existing difficulties relating to these issues as soon as possiblie.

The ministers of defense, internal affairs, and state security presented to the session specific measures to secure conditions for peace in various regions of the country, and to restore security in Kabul city and on the highways. These measures were approved by the commission and by a number of the delegates of the Wolasi Jirgah who were invited to take part in the session. [passage omitted]

Retired Pakistani Officers Said Assisting Rebels

LD1210163188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The Pakistani authorities are sending Pakistani soldiers along with armed extremist groups, who they arm and supply, to mete out death and destruction in our country. According to recent reports, two retired Pakistani officers, Aslam Parviz and Saifollah, have been assigned in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Gulbuddin and Khalis groups. They are experts at destroying equipment and facilities. They are participating, along with extremist elements, in terrorism and destruction.

The Pakistani intervention in our country has intensified. For instance, hundreds of rounds of machinegun bullets and rocket and mortar shells were recently fired at a southern border province of Zabol. As a result 18 people were killed in the town of Qalat and 22 others were wounded.

Despite the intensification of the warmongers activities, which were coordinated by foreigners, the noble people of Zabol put up a gallant fight. The brave Armed Forces of the country killed 319 extremists and wounded 156 others during 122 combat missions. Two foreign advisers are included in those who were crushed. A number of the extremists' mortar sets were also destroyed during the operations.

97th Memorandum on 'Violations' Submitted

LD1210090688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 11, BAKHTAR—The 97th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violations from the provisions of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), reports the liaison office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Afghanistan with the UNGOMAP.

The notice gives necessary informations on the eight cases of flagrant violations from the second article of the first document of the Geneva agreements and asks the UNGOMAP to assess the Pakistani violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the United Nations secretary general of its results.

98th Memorandum Submitted

LD1310082088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 12, BAKHTAR—98th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violations by Pakistan in six cases of the second article, Document Number 1, of Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, today.

The notice stipulates the nature of the violations with the specific date and location of the violations. The notice has asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the causes and to inform the findings to the respective authority of the Republic of Afghanistan as well as to the envoy of UN secretary general.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

BK1110133588 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Bangladesh has called for urgent international efforts to prevent the recurrence of floods and other natural disasters in South Asia. Addressing the 43d session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury gave a detailed account of the catastrophic floods that overran Bangladesh recently.

Presenting a graphic picture of the floods that played havoc in Bangladesh and other natural calamities in the region, the foreign minister spoke about the consequences caused by such disasters to the affected countries. He spoke of Dhaka's relentless efforts to seek a solution to the situation, including the current endeavor to evolve plans against floods on a regional basis.

Mr Chowdhury expressed Bangladesh's gratitude to the international response in the wake of the floods. In this context, the foreign minister proposed holding of an environmental summit at the highest level, probably, as a special session of the UN General Assembly. Mr Chowdhury also mentioned about floods in India and earthquakes and landslides in Nepal.

Referring to Bangladesh's approaches toward a permanent solution to the problem, he said it is imperative to generate regional cooperation among all the concerned neighbors for coherent and well-coordinated policies and plans to their mutual benefit. International help and intervention is necessary to make such efforts fruitful and effective.

Bangladesh has already initiated the process through direct contacts with the leaders of the region and through communications with the heads of international organizations and financial organizations, including those in the UN system.

Education Minister Given Additional Portfolio

BK0910164188 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] An official announcement says the education minister, Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development, and Flood Control.

India

Troops Called Out To Stop Hindu-Muslim Violence

BK1210164288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12 (AFP)—Troops were called out in northern India's Uttar Pradesh State Wednesday as the death toll from clashes between Hindus and Muslims over a 16th century shrine rose to 21, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi Muslim leaders agreed to cancel a proposed march on the shrine Friday in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya town after holding talks with Federal Home Minister Buta Singh Wednesday, officials said.

PTI said two people were stabbed to death and 72 injured during renewed violence Wednesday in curfew-bound Muzzafarnagar town, where violence broke out Saturday during a general strike called by Hindu groups to protest against a march proposed Friday by the Muslims to Ayodhya.

An official spokesman quoted by PTI said the riots had so far left 16 people dead in Muzzafarnagar town. He added that four people had been killed in Aligarh and one in Khatauli—both in the Muzzafarnagar District.

All three places had been placed under indefinite curfew, the spokesman said, adding that no fresh incidents had taken place in Aligarh and Khatauli.

The news agency did not give details about Wednesday's violence in Muzzafarnagar.

PTI said that troops had arrived in Muzzafarnagar District from Meerut to the north and had been directed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to bring the situation there under control.

Authorities had earlier given troops shoot-on-sight orders but PTI had no reports of the Army taking such action.

PTI quoted the official spokesman as saying that 228 people had been arrested since the violence erupted.

Both communities claim ownership of the crumbling shrine in Ayodhya.

Fundamentalist Hindus say it was the birthplace of their lord Rama and accuse Babar, founder of the Moghul empire in undivided India, of constructing a mosque after demolishing a Hindu temple built there.

Moslems dispute the claim and seek exclusive use of the shrine.

Meanwhile the authorities invoked the National Security Act, which provides for detention without trial, to arrest at least three people Wednesday, PTI said. It did not identify those arrested.

Officials here said that a Muslim delegation, headed by Syed Shahabuddin, agreed after talks with Mr. Buta Singh Wednesday to drop plans to lead a march on the shrine Friday, which many people feared would trigger further clashes.

Talks with leaders of both sides were initiated by Mr. Buta Singh in a bid to resolve the long-standing dispute through negotiation. He has proposed meeting Hindu representatives again in about a week's time, the officials said.

Mr. Buta Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari, who was also present at Wednesday's meeting, appealed to the Muslim delegation to end plans to take direct action in the dispute, they added.

Uttar Pradesh 'Peaceful'; Death Toll at 19

BK1310032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Muzaffarnagar remained generally peaceful barring some incidents of arson last night. Police sources told our Lucknow correspondent that with the recovery of 3 more bodies, the death toll in the current violence in the town has gone up to 19. Two hundred and thirty-five arrests have been made in Muzaffarnagar so far. Patrolling has been intensified in the affected areas and additional police force has been rushed.

The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Aligarh and Khatauli was also peaceful. Over 250 arrests have been made in Aligarh. Army contingents deployed at vulnerable points are assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order.

29 Pakistan-Trained Kashmiri Youths Arrested

BK1310001888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 29 Kashmiri youths trained in subversive activities by Pakistan have so far been arrested. Huge quantities of foreign-made arms and ammunition were seized.

Addressing a news conference in Srinagar today, the director general [DG] of police, Mr Ghulam Jalani Pandit, said the interrogations have revealed that over 100 Kashmiri youths were trained in the use of arms, explosives, and other subversive activities. The aim was to create disorder and destabilization in the Kashmir Valley. This is a plan that envisaged simultaneous attacks on vital installations.

The DG said out of the 100, who were reported to have crossed over to Pakistan, 29 have been arrested. Twenty-seven others suspected to be involved in disruptive activities have been detained for questioning.

8 Killed, 4 Injured in Tripura Clashes 12 Oct

BK1310075188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In Tripura, eight persons, including a policeman, were killed and four others injured seriously in a clash between supporters of two political parties at (Birchandramanu) last night.

Police said that the trouble started when supporters of two political parties gathered at their local offices and attacked one another on the issue of death of one person belonging to a particular party. Several houses were burnt in the violence. The injured were admitted to a local hospital. The police intervened and brought the situation under control. The senior officials visited the spot and intensified police patrolling.

Railways Minister Signs Protocol in Moscow

BK1010152388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] India will import electric locomotives from the Soviet Union. A protocol to this effect was signed by the railway minister, Madhavrao Scindia, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr N.S. Konarev, in Moscow today. They also discussed possibilities of technology transfer and heavy haul train operations from Moscow to New Delhi.

The railway minister, Mr Scindia, arrived in Moscow on the 6th of this month on a mission to explore ways for cooperation in railways.

Protocol on Civil Aviation Signed With USSR

BK1310094588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Big strides have been made in Indo-Soviet cooperation in tourism and civil aviation following the just concluded visit of a high level Indian delegation to Moscow.

The visit has opened up possibilities for induction of at least three types of the latest generation Soviet aircraft in civil operations in the country.

The tourism and civil aviation secretary, Mr S.K. Mishra, signed the protocol relating to the subjects while in Moscow on behalf of India, and the Soviet aviation industry minister, Mr Systsov, on his country's behalf.

Company Begins Tank Laser Sight Production

BK0710081188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Oct 88

[Text] The public sector Bharat Electronics Limited, BEL, has started manufacturing ultrasophisticated tank laser sight systems for the Vijyanta battle tank. The systems to be fitted on the battle tank can locate the enemy within a target range of 300 meters to 10 km.

A spokesman of the BEL told newsmen at Masulipatnam in Andhra Pradesh that several schemes are under way to expand the Masulipatnam unit to suit the indigenization program and explore new areas in optoelectronics. He said BEL unit has drawn up a 5-year plan to achieve production valued at 50 crore rupees by the end of the seventh plan.

Iran

Musavi Warns of 'Zionist' Involvement in Lebanon

LD1210164888 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—The cabinet today strongly condemned plots underway to partition Lebanon and said the conspiracy as a result of "unjustifiable" differences among Muslims.

In its Wednesday's session presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, the cabinet also warned the world of Islam against the involvement of the Zionist regime and regional reactionaries in recent developments in Lebanon.

Later in the session, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati briefed the cabinet on the latest developments in Iran-Iraq peace talks at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.

Velayati described the trend of the U.N.-mediated peace talks as relatively "positive but slow" and expressed hope that the Iraqi team to the negotiatons would not only be adequately empowered but would also quit its irresponsible and subversive efforts, if it really wants a lasting peace.

U.S. Senate Approves Sanctions Against Iraq

LD1210150888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 oCT 88

[Text] REUTER reports that the U.S. Senate yesterday approved the declaration of economic sanctions against the Iraqi regime based on that regime's deployment of poisonous gases against the Kurds.

According to a draft from the Senate, the United States has been called on to oppose the extension of a loan to Iraq from international financial institutions. Also, the sale of sensitive weapons to Iraq and any technology subject to export controls will be banned. The U.S. Senate's sanctions also include the export of agricultural products to Iraq.

A similar decision was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. In the House of Representatives' version, opposition to the extension of a loan from international financial institutions to Iraq was written as a decision authorized by the U.S. President.

It is worth noting that the Iraqi regime has not directly received any sensitive weapons from the United States prior to this.

Majlis Speaker Attends IRGC Graduation

LD1210211188 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—The first graduation ceremony of IRGC helicopter pilots was held at an airbase here Wednesday in the presence of Majlis speaker and acting Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Also present at the ceremony were Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi and several Army and IRGC commanders.

The audience heard Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauding the IRGC Air Force for its success in training pilots and said this was one of the "blessings of the war."

The acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief also hailed the progress of IRGC militry industries in manufacturing missiles and improvising missile systems and said "If such progress continues the country will certainly be equipped with a sound defensive weapon."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that the country's drive to manufacture missile systems would continue in order to set an example for developing countries.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani underscored the need for the Armed Forces to attain self-sufficiency in the field of military industries and said "This work should be steadily pursued whether it is the time of war or peace."

The Majlis speaker, saying that the country is not far from "manufacturing warplanes" noted that training of committed forces will soon make the country invulnerable (vis-a-vis its enemies).

Majlis Speaker Addresses War Refugees Seminar

LD1010084188 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Acting armed forces commander-in-chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has described war refugees as a live evidence of the Iraqi enemy's "bestiality" and the Islamic Republic of Iran's "innocence."

Speaking at a nationwide seminar sponsored by the Foundation for Iraqi War Refugees here Sunday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the refugees as a "stimulus for the power and movement of the Islamic system."

Instead of causing trouble for Iran, he said, these refugees have turned to "a cultural element for inspiring an spirit of defence into the society."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who also chairs the Majlis (Parliament), adverting to the role the foundation's officials should play in the country's post-war reconstruction, exhorted them to spare no effort in rendering services to the deprived strata of the society, including the war refugees.

"When writing the important chapters of the revolution's history, we must also take into account the condition of these deprived and patient war refugees," he stressed.

DPRK Minister Arrives for Talks on Economic Ties

LD0910162788 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 9 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Li Hong-yop deputy minister of mines of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Sunday held talks with minister of mines and metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi.

The two sides stressed expansion of economic ties between Iran and DPRK expecially in the mineral sector.

Views were also exchanged at the meeting on Tehran-Pyongyang cooperation in minerals, including copper, zinc, lead, phosphorus, manganese, chromium as well as mine exploitation.

Li Hong-yop arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation.

Visits Mines, Factories

LD1010181788 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 10 Oct 88

[Text] Zanjan, Oct. 10, IRNA—Visiting Deputy Mines Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Li Hong-yop and his accompanying delegation inspected "Angouran" mine and "Dandi" lead and zinc factory here today.

During the inspection Li said he is visiting Iran to implement a joint letter of understanding signed between Prime Minister Musavi of Iran and his DPRK counterpart Li Gun-mo last June. The DPRK delegation is also to discuss further Tehran-Pyongyang cooperation in mineral sector, Li said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Mines and Metals Minister Mostafa Hashemi said the letter of understanding has predicted mutual mineral cooperation especially exports of Iranian concentrated lead and zinc and imports of lead and zinc bars from DPRK.

The Korean delegation which arrived in Tehran last Thursday is to inspect Iranian lead and zinc mines to finalize a bilateral agreement.

Angouran mines, one of the largest in the world, is located 120 kms southwest of the Zanjan capital province with a reserve of 25 million tons of lead ore with an average assay of 7 percent and zinc ore with an average assay of 33 percent.

Dandi factory with a nominal capacity of 80,000 tons annually produces concenrated lead with an assay of 65 percent and concentrated zinc with an assay of 55 percent from the ores the Angouran mine yield.

Meets With Musavi

LD1210193888 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Visiting Deputy Minister of Mines of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Li Hong-yop met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi Wednesday.

During the meeting, Li briefed Premier Musavi on the outcome of his earlier meetings with Iranian officials and announced his country's readiness for mutual cooperation especially in the mining sector.

In response, Musavi referring to the friendly ties between Tehran and Pyongyang, expressed hope that the DPRK official's visit would pave the way for long term bilateral cooperation in the field of mines.

First Trade Exhibition Opens in Moscow 10 Oct

LD1110090888 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—A first post-revolution exhibition of Iranian products organized jointly by the Iranian Export Promotion Center and the Industries and Mines Bank of Iran opened in Moscow Monday. On display are about 200 products manufactured by 80 private as well as government-owned industries in Iran.

A group of Soviet and Iranian officials and industrialists attended the inaugural ceremonies.

An official of the Soviet Foreign Ministry addressing the ceremony expressed the interest of his country in expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and expressed hope that the exhibition would help materialize this goal.

Head of Export Promotion Center of Iran Hoseyn Khabbazan [name as received] said at the ceremony that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance on relations with the countries which respect Iran's sovereignty. He said the exhibition in Moscow has been a major development in Tehran-Moscow trade ties. The exhibition will be open until October 19.

1,100 Kgs of Opium Seized Near Zahedan

LD1210205488 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Prov., IRNA—Personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Committee (IRC) seized 1,100 kgs of opium from a ring of smugglers at the Nosratabad desert region near Zahedan Tuesday, said a provincial IRC commander today.

The IRC commander told a press conference that the revolutionary comitteemen during their eight-hour clash also killed and wounded several smugglers and seized four light weapons and ammunition.

Earlier on Monday, he said, 400 kgs of opium had been seized by the IRC personnel near Zabol city in this southeastern province.

Majlis Deputies Debate, Vote on Ministers

WA0710111488 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Sep 88 pp 5, 10-11

[Text] Legal Department and Majlis—The Majlis convened yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The session began with a reading from the glorious word of God. The Majlis then opened its agenda discussing the vote of confidence on the six ministers named to assume leadership of the Ministries of the Revolution Guards [IRGC], Commerce, Energy, the Reconstruction Crusade, Education and Agriculture.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that after speeches by deputies for and against the ministers, as well as statements in their own defense by the proposed ministers, a vote was taken on the proposed ministers.

As a result, the Majlis gave a vote of confidence to 'Ali Shamkhani as the new IRGC minister, Gholamreza Foruzesh as the new minister of the reconstruction crusade, Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh as minister of energy, 'Isa Kalantari as minister of agriculture, and Mohammad 'Ali Najafi as minister of education.

Mr Majid Hedayat-Zadeh was unable to obtain the necessary votes to become minister of commerce.

Below are printed the complete remarks of those both for and against the various ministers as well as the remarks made by the proposed ministers.

Qazizadeh-Hashemi (against)

The principles and values of the revolution demand that when evaluating the capabilities of managers and management, the matter of foremost concern is the manager's ideological viewpoint in the social and political areas of the revolution.

The first opponent was Mr Qazizadeh-Hashemi, representative of the people of Sarakhs va Fariman. He began his talk by saying: I am opposed to the ministries of Mr Hedayat-Zadeh, Mr Kalantari, Mr Najafi, Mr Namdar-Zanganeh, and Mr Foruzesh. The principles and values of the revolution demand that when evaluating the capabilities of managers and management, the matter of foremost concern is the manager's point of view in the social and political areas of the revolution, not simply his knowledge of a mechanical or physical form of activity which ultimately will simply be pursued and implemented.

Therefore, the selection must be based on ways of operating, having an acceptable point of view, the ability to make the utmost effort on a daily basis, and the ability to solve problems and prevent them from proliferating.

He discussed the nomination of Mr Hedayat-Zadeh for the office of minister of commerce. He said: The Ministry of Commerce has about 25,000 personnel with more than 70 general offices in the provinces, about 100 companies and organizations, 12 purchasing centers, and 12 distribution units. If we can make a comparison, it can be said that the total extent of commercial affairs in the current ministry is about 20 percent of what it once was. Statements by reliable present and former colleagues of Mr Hedayat-Zadeh describe his lack of cooperation in group tasks. How can such an extensive aggregate be turned over to him in today's conditions? What guarantees can there be that what exists will not be dissipated?

Another issue is Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's lack of presence in the nation's primary domestic commercial affairs, the wartime commercial services, and reconstruction in the nation's most sensitive and fateful times. From the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], when he left the Ministry of Commerce, to the current year, there have been a great many difficulties and hardships in the Ministry of Commerce. The volume of available foreign exchange has dropped rapidly during these few years to the point that by 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] it will have dropped about 80 percent compared with the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985].

Is his absence during planning sessions on difficult conditions and foreign exchange shortages and the lack of experience with past events a simple matter that can be overlooked, and which need not be considered in planning the future of the nation's economy? During Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's service in the Ministry of Commerce he has only worked in a section of the Foreign Trade Department. His lack of practical experience, in view of the breadth of the Ministry of Commerce's domestic work, could cause great difficulties.

Continuing his remarks, he added: In the Guilds Department there are 500,000 authorized guild, production, and service units, of which 350,000 are production units and 150,000 are service units. The basic issue for resolving and reforming the affairs of this great department revolves around what plans and principles are to be employed to accomplish this. How will the complex pricing system be implemented, and what sort of supervision will be used?

To find appropriate solutions for the problems that have been presented, perhaps the first problem is the need for a sufficient amount of the required understanding of domestic commerce gained through four years of ups and downs. Has Mr Hedayat-Zadeh been in the Ministry of Commerce long enough to ensure that he will reach solutions that are suitable for the problems of this sector of commerce? Clearly, the first expectation of society for change from officials at this level will be an improvement in present conditions. How can assurances of improved conditions be obtained in view of what has already been said?

Mr Qazizadeh-Hashemi then discussed the minister of agriculture. He said: Does Mr Kalantari have a high and privileged position in the Ministry of Agriculture compared with those who are in charge, or does he have the leadership, commitment and trust necessary, compared with the others, to attract Muslim manpower? In view of the fact that he has been presented to the Majlis before, and in view of the basic measures taken by the first Majlis on 6/6/1362 [28 August 1983] in not giving him a vote of confidence, he has not given a convincing answer.

Concerning the Minister of Education

He then discussed Mr Najafi's ministry. He said: Mr Najafi wants to become minister of a ministry that yesterday had ministers like Raja'i and a dedicated managing director who gave three of his brothers to God at once, a ministry whose students created 13 Aban [4 November] and who after the revolution made a leader and a model of a learned martyr. How is this selection an improvement? What characteristic does he have that is better than the previous views and thoughts of the respected ministers? He has had unprincipled and uncommitted encounters with the university crusades, the Islamic societies for teacher training, and the representatives of His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri during his ministry service. Continuing his remarks, he added:

Unfortunately, in the selection of a minister, previously established criteria are not observed, nor are the views of former Majlis deputies considered. Why should someone be nominated again as minister of education who, at the beginning of the last Majlis term, received the smallest vote of confidence, 51 votes, in the history of the Majlis? Did not the former Majlis reject him as minister of education because of his being unqualified, inexperienced, and having a poor record? Can Mr Najafi, with his record and weaknesses, manage a ministry of this breadth and with these problems?

How is it that a ministry with more than 700,000 cadres with ten million students, and a ministry that, because of having the best, most worthy, and most committed manpower, does the basic work of other ministries and organizations including that of about 80 respected members of the Majlis? How is it that the minister of this ministry is nominated without any familiarity or with even one day's teaching experience?

Mr Najafi's way of thinking and working in the Ministry of Science [as published] shows us that when he arrives on the job first of all, a number of committed and religiously trained persons will be employed and secondly a number of others apparently will be fired. Under current conditions, this is one of the principal dangers threatening the Ministry of Education and the revolution.

He discussed the failure to conduct the necessary consultations with experts in the selection of the minister of education and the failure to select someone from the Ministry of Education. He said: There are more than 700,000 educated cadres in the Ministry of Education, and the selection of an individual from outside this group is itself another insult to the noble and caring members of society.

The Hezbollah, the reconstruction crusade, the university Islamic societies, and the committed elements of the Ministry of Education are all of the opinion that Mr Najafi does not have the needed competence and experience for the Ministry of Education and is not the best choice.

In conclusion he said: Other than Mr Shamkhani I am opposed to all the other brothers nominated to the ministries.

Fazel-Hamadani (for)

As the first speaker in favor of the nominees, Mr Fazel-Hamadani began by mentioning His Holiness 'Ali's (peace be upon him) remarks to Malek Ashtar concerning the selection of competent and oppressed people to run the government. He said: His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) told Malek Ashtar: "Deal with the people in such a way that the oppressed class will be able to speak with you easily and without suffering harm or abuse." Therefore, the Islamic government, due to its special populist characteristics and its orthodox character, must pay greater attention to the oppressed and deprived people.

The speaker then declared his acceptance of several of the ministerial nominees. He said: Mr Shamkhani is the brother of two martyrs who has had a major role in starting the komitehs and the IRGC of Khuzestan, as well as in the management and organization of the IRGC. Although from the point of view of administrative and operational experience he is far from the dear, respected, and industrious brother Gholamreza Foruzesh. However, due to his active presence at the battlefronts and with the implementation of technical and engineering projects such as the great bridges of Ba'sat, Kheybar, and Seyyed ol-Shohada road and thousands of kilometers of highways and canals, he has been the one to open the way for many tasks.

The representative of the people of Kabutar Ahang then continued his remarks, announcing his acceptance of the nomination of Mr 'Isa Kalantari, candidate for the Ministry of Agriculture. He then discussed Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's record of combat. He said: Mr Hedayat-Zadeh is a committed, industrious, and self-made man who, according to a powerful government minister, in the worst crisis in OPEC's memory and of the last ten years, under the acute effects of the economic embargo, was able to sell $40 billion in oil at low prices without any betrayal.

For example, on the disaster of 7 Tir [28 June] he remained buried under debris for hours and later when Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani made arrangements for him to go abroad for treatment, he said: I will remain and be treated with the other dear ones.

He then discussed Mr Najafi's successes in reopening the universities and putting them back into operation. Concerning Mr Namdar-Zanganeh, the nominee for minister of energy, he expressed the hope that with the creativity and awareness he has in various areas, he would be able to make good progress towards easing the plight and aiding the oppressed and deprived people of society.

In conclusion he said: Brothers who speak on these subjects must take God into consideration and not forget the labors and experiences of these people, and resolve the matter with decisive votes.

Najaf Qoli-Habibi (against)

The second speaker in opposition was Mr Najaf Qoli-Habibi, representative of the people of Tehran. Referring to the selection of the ministers, he said: Reason dictates that to the extent that we progress, we must denounce our methods in these areas, and after several years of the Islamic Revolution, when the enemy's methods have been identified, when individuals and groups have been identified, and the bases and roots of a precise, clear, and comprehensive revolution that is prepared for its enemies have also become more clearly specified, duty dictates that we listen to these alarms going off in our ears and that we take heed in a practical way of all the experience and awareness we have gained in order to block the complex, creeping enemy inroads.

However, our total record does not show that we have reached this kind of awareness, and this is unfortunate. A clear illustration of this is the way we select ministers. If someone wants to hire someone, he studies that person or persons for some time, and makes his choice after consultation and evaluation. In choosing ministers, however, unfortunately we see less of this sort of thing, and with all of what has been presented concerning the overall issues of the revolution, the aims of the enemy and the setting of directions, none of these deliberations occur. One sometimes hears of a minister being chosen and nominated in three hours, and this is a very improper way of doing things.

Concerning the Ministry of Commerce

Referring to the selection of Mr Hedayat-Zadeh as minister of commerce, he said: Let us look at the way the Ministry of Commerce fulfills its role in the country's affairs, in making the country dependent [as published], creating self-sufficiency and independence for the nation, and procuring social justice, and its role in creating a split between the deprived people and the wealthy. This set of roles is very sensitive and complex. The program that Mr Hedayat-Zadeh has unfortunately does not clarify or discuss any specific mechanism, and he does not tell us how he will implement his plans, which are expressed in a set of slogans.

I have discussed what effects this ministry could have on the matter of independence, on who is buying and who is selling, or what rials and foreign exchange are being bought, and what manner of organization is effective for all of these matters, and in them what is relevant to the aims of our revolution. In Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's plans we do not see any clear positions on these matters. For example, he gives no explanations regarding exports, and does not tell us whether he means to encourage exports or merely to encourage exporters.

Continuing, he added: I call upon him to refer to his own conscience and ask himself, in the Ministry of Commerce, with its size and with the foreign purchases and the matter of domestic distribution, both of which bring temptations, to what extent would he be able to retain his integrity in the face of these processes, and how much effort would he make towards achieving the aspirations of the oppressed and the deprived and making life better for these suffering people?

Concerning the Ministries of Education and Agriculture

Mr Qoli-Habibi then discussed the nominee for the Ministry of Education. He said: I do not consider Mr Najafi in any way qualified to become minister of education, and the reason is weak management. In the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] the Majlis did not give him a vote of confidence on the grounds of weak management alone. As someone familiar with the problems of the universities and with their accomplishments, and likewise as someone who, regarding education issues, has been a teacher and a principal for 19 years, in general I do not consider him qualified to take over this ministry.

Concluding his remarks, the representative of the people of Tehran discussed the ministry proposed for Mr Kalantari. He said: Our esteemed professor has not explained how he will create a mechanism that will be able to move the nation's agricultural affairs in a direction that will benefit the country. Moreover, they say that he favors so-called free capitalism, and that he is at odds with the Hezbollah. This is why, in the year 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], the Majlis did not vote for him.

'Abdollah Nowruzi (for)

As the second speaker in favor of the nominees, Mr Nowruzi told the deputies of the Majlis: You have assumed a role as deputies in which you have the trust of the people in the cities and rural areas. Do not allow differences in taste to dissipate the principle of loyalty and cause the enemy to be forgotten. Our enemies are committed, and examples of that are readily observable. We can see that it is not right for us to be divided.

The speaker then discussed the persons nominated to take over various ministries. He said: Ministers must be people who have tasted the bitterness of poverty and who consider themselves the employees and servants of poor people and not be the recepient of wealth. A minister in the Islamic Republic must be someone who has anger against America and the Soviet Union throbbing in his veins and whose teeth are clenched against the wicked for the pleasure of God, so that the enemy will never dream of defeating or penetrating his organization.

Our minister must have political understanding of the imam while he is also the leader and the representative of the honest people and one who does not stand on ceremony in dealing with them. He must not have the slightest hesitation about obedience to the rule of the jurisconsult [Khomeyni] and he must not hesitate to rely and profit from the participation and creativity of the people.

He then added: Just as the great imam has said, it is the right of the Majlis to vote for any minister it wants. The confirmation or criticism of a minister is not the unconditional acceptance, or, God forbid, the condemnation of that ministry. However, unfortunately in some cases such conclusions or propaganda have been made.

He then discussed Namdar-Zanganeh's experiences and studies. He said: In view of the fact that his academic background is a master's degree in civil engineering, and that a significant part of the study in this field is water projects, overall I consider him a knowledgeable person with an interest in creating ways to obtain surface and underground water as one of the nation's most fundamental needs. He has played an important role in forming the research center, creating areas of study in the reconstruction crusade for journeymen, experts, and guidance specialists, in the construction of the great Behbehan Dam on the Karun River, the 15 Khordad Dam in Qom, the creation of the Minab irrigation system, and many other things.

The speaker then discussed Mr Namdar-Zanganeh's personal characteristics. He said: His characteristics include informality, a simple way of life, humility, honesty with the common people, and like-mindedness with other government workers and ministers in the cabinet.

Praise God, he has all the qualities I have given as the attributes of a minister. On behalf of my dear brother, Engineer Mirvalad, another deputy from the Municipality of Malayer, I am authorized to express his confirmation and positive view on this matter to the respected deputies.

Concluding his talk, he said: The ministers who have been nominated are the capital of this revolution, and, God willing, they can be good servants for the Islamic Republic.

Mohammad Qomi (against)

Mr Qomi, representative of the people of Varamin, spoke as the third opponent. In his talk he discussed the issues and position of education in society, and discussed the minister nominated for this ministry. He said: The question before us is would not it be better for one of the 700,000 people employed in this ministry and accepted by them to be nominated as its minister? As a teacher, I take this as an insult. Mr Eng Musavi, this is truly an insult to educated people. I have respect for our brother Mr Najafi, and this is not an issue, but someone must be selected who has had management experience in education.

Continuing, he added: At the session dated 67/6/28 [19 September 1988] a vote was taken in the Education Commission concerning Mr Najafi's ministry, and all were opposed. Even the many teachers we encountered in the halls and aisles of the Majlis were opposed, and this is an insult to the Ministry of Education.

Concerning the Ministry of Education

Continuing his remarks, the representative of the people of Varamin said: What do we want to do with the Ministry of Education? We want to implement what the imam has said, that secondary education has more of an effect than higher education. We also have traditions that say the training of children has a greater effect, and that the training and personality of students in the secondary schools takes shape in the early years.

Therefore, we must pay attention to these things, and with regard to our brother Mr Najafi it can be said that he is a member of the Supreme Council on Education and has taken part in the Mathematics Olympiad as the head of the mathematics team. He even has a master's degree and a doctorate. What does this have to do with teaching in the villages? What does it have to do with training teachers? What does it have to do with education while serving in the military? Excuse me, logic and things of this nature have no relevance.

Concerning Mr Najafi's programs, he said: I have a question for you respected Majlis deputies. For a ministry of education that has around 24,428 exceptional students, read Mr Najafi's program and you see that there is not one word of planning for them. He may be saying he does not know about them, or he has forgotten. These people are truly oppressed, but his planning has given them absolutely no attention or consideration.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Qomi said: I am joined in my opposition by all members of the Education Commission as well as a great many teacher brothers and sisters who are attending the Majlis session. Of course, he is a scientist and one who has worked hard for the Islamic Republic. However, I say this, so that I will not be answerable before God, the great martyrs of Islam and the student and teacher martyrs.

I have said these things because I hope that the deputy brothers and sisters, who are always mindful of their duties and their mission, will realize, under these current conditions and with the huge size of the Ministry of Education, that someone is about to take over the job who has no familiarity with the structure of the Ministry of Education in order to be able to take this heavy load to its destination.

Hoseyn Sobhani-Niya (for)

Mr Sobhani-Niya, representative of the people of Neyshabur, spoke as the third supporter. As he enumerated the personal and ethical attributes of a minister, he gave the reasons for his support of Mr Foruzesh: Mr Foruzesh, in view of his firm background in religious and political affairs prior to the revolution in the university and in the Province of Khuzestan, and likewise his service in the trenches of the reconstruction crusade, his acceptance of the responsibility of membership in the Central Council of Khuzestan Province, and his sincere service towards this responsibility, would appear to have a clear background of commitment to Islam, the revolution and the deprived and the oppressed.

He then noted Mr Namdar-Zanganeh's positive positions following the imam's line on various issues, calling him an independent person following the vice-regency of the rul of the jurisconsult and the successor to leadership. He noted the successful activities he has carried out during his time as Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade in the creation of various dams, his deep concern for water the country could use, and his training of more than 50,000 students in the centers for higher education.

He said: One of the most important responsibilities of the Ministry of Energy is to strengthen specialist manpower and to create and manage a water and electricity industry, and the peerless measures our brother Mr Zanganeh has taken during his tenure in the Reconstruction Crusade in the training of manpower can also be taken by him in the Ministry of Energy. Likewise, his experience managing a revolutionary organization to eliminate bureaucracy and to promote participation from the people can be very positive for organizing and managing the Ministry of Energy.

Commerce and Agriculture

The speaker then discussed Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's personal and executive characteristics. He said: Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's Muslim and revolutionary qualifications go back to the years before the revolution. Since his years in secondary school, he has advocated Islam in the true sense and in all dimensions, including the dimension of struggle, and he began his crusade in word and action from the beginning of his activity in the Islamic Society, and went to prison for doing so.

The speaker then discussed Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's humble life and the responsibilities he has had in his ten years in the commercial sectors. He said: Most of the complaints of the people, especially the Hezbollah, concern the work of officials in the Ministry of Commerce, especially in matters of distribution, and with Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's plans there is real hope that some of these problems will really be eliminated.

The speaker then discussed the personal qualifications of 'Isa Kalantari, his various studies, specializations, and responsibilities in the area of agriculture, as well as the basic problem of agriculture. He said: I hope that the deputies will vote for Mr Kalantari and open the way for an extensive effort towards the nation's food self-sufficiency.

Continuing his talk, he then discussed the ceaseless efforts of Mr Shamkhani in managing and organizing the IRGC. Then he said concerning Mr Najafi: He is an intelligent specialist, talented and hard-working, and he is an expert in education and training matters.

Salehi-Abadi (against)

The fourth speaker in opposition was the representative of the people of Mashhad. He expressed his condolences at the passing away of Professor Shahriyar and discussed the recommendations of the imam and the successor to leadership on the subject of selecting officials. Concerning the minister nominated for minister of commerce, he said: With regard to my objection to Mr Hedayat-Zadeh, I must say that this is a very important and sensitive post. It is a ministry that has a tight relationship with the other ministries. Therefore, greater care and attention must be exercised.

In 1349 [21 March 1970-20 March 1971] Mr Hedayat-Zadeh entered Tehran College, and in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] he graduated with a master's degree. He then went to work at the Pars-Minu Factory. After earning a master's degree in America, he unfortunately continued working in the same factory. While Mr Hedayat-Zadeh has experience and a past record, in my opinion he does not have the level of capability desired for this task. I would like to ask, during the period of his service, how much reform he carried out, how much power did he build for this nation, whether in the Ministry of Commerce or the Ministry of Petroleum?

When he was in the Ministry of Petroleum, he was one of those people who had very, very close relations with Western companies, such as the (718 Company), which has about 100 gas stations in West Germany. In a single transaction of five million barrels where they gave a discount of 100 tons [as published] per barrel, three million dollars went into that company's treasury. This transaction is fully and precisely documented in the Ministry of Petroleum.

There are brothers in the Ministry of Petroleum who have themselves stated clearly that in many of these contracts and talks which were held, despite the fact that the brothers and experts wanted to have several others present in the closed rooms where they had gone alone with company officials to talk, they did not agree to this request of these brothers, and always wanted to conduct these talks in so-called private quarters.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to Mr Hedayat-Zadeh's trips abroad and his relations with foreign companies. He said: Why do we want to provide all these resources and this great ministry to people such as this who have such close relations with Westerners? Of course, these people could be of service in other places, but is this really right? Of course, it may be that under certain conditions the government and the country's top officials will conclude that we should have relations, even if we are not fond of them.

Flaws in the Plans Presented

He discussed the plans proposed by Mr Hedayat-Zadeh. He said: I have precisely studied his program, and it did not have any kind of specific inclination or special design that could solve our problems in this country. Very well, one of our concerns, which was expressed by the nation's great leaders, especially the great successor to the leadership, is the issue of distribution. We must examine the plans for distribution offered by someone who wants to become Minister of Commerce, and determine what his plans are for dealing with illicit markets.

Unfortunately, we hear that these are the markets that they have forcefully protected in recent years when their interests have been threatened. Our question is: What is his plan for dealing with the markets of those thugs and middlemen and with those people who have made the greatest profit in this country in these last few years.

Concerning the plan that has been proposed, the speaker said: Today we need an expert plan, one that will produce a good result in practice. Therefore, Mr Hedayat-Zadeh may be useful for other tasks, but he is not the best person for this one.

Concerning the Minister of Agriculture

He discussed the importance of agriculture, its pivotal nature, and the close cooperation between Mr Kalantari and Mr Zali, he said: Unfortunately, this ministry's achievements in the past few years have been very weak, and the experts of the Ministry of Agriculture themselves agree with this completely. From the year 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] to the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], Mr Kalantari was deputy minister of agriculture for research and training.

According to the comments of officials and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, part of the nation's total research budget went to the Ministry of Agriculture, but you go and see what was accomplished between 1362 and 1364 [21 March 1983-20 March 1985] when this unit was supervised by Mr Kalantari. Concerning Dasht-e Moghan, where some friends, and especially the deputies from Azarbayjan, say his achievements were good, I looked up the statistics and figures and with your permission I will read them. At the end of his talk he read the statistics and figures in this area.

Majid Ansari (for)

Mr Majid Ansari, representative of the people of Zarand of Kerman spoke as the fourth person in favor of the nominees. In his talk he praised the role played in the IRGC Ministry by Mr Shamkhani. He began his talk by saying: When talk turns to the IRGC Ministry and our brother Mr Shamkhani, one must mention the values created in the revolution by the IRGC. Since Mr Shamkhani has grown with the IRGC and it with him, the high points of the IRGC of the Islamic Revolution are the high points in the career of the founders of this sacred organization. Our dear brother Mr Shamkhani is one of these founders and one of the primary commanders of the Revolution Guards.

He discussed Mr Shamkhani's struggles and his activities during the war to establish the IRGC Ministry. He said: An important and memorable part of the pride in the planning for operations "Fath ol-Mobin" [Clear victory—after Mohammad's return to Mecca], "Beyt ol-Moqaddas," "Karbala'-5, and other victorious and great IRGC operations is attributable to him, and, in a word, he has the attribute of crusading for the sake of God in all of his words.

It is his deep awareness of the problems and issues of the armed forces, especially the IRGC and the mobilization units, that has been established in the eight years of the holy crusade, and this is a strong argument in support of his taking over the IRGC Ministry. Better than anyone else, he has perceived the deficiencies and malfunctions in the IRGC planning with the combat forces, and naturally he knows the solutions better than others.

Mr Ansari discussed the remarks of those opposed to Mr Najafi's becoming Minister of Education. He said: The important point was that he is not a member of the Ministry Education, and that it is an insult to those who are for someone who is not one of them to come and take over the ministry. I did not expect that in the Majlis, with the the broad view of things that the respected deputies have, that the issue would be approached with a narrow, nationalistic, or trade-guild perspective. God willing, there is no insult to anyone.

Dr Najafi is one of this nation's educated people. He knows the Minister of Education as well as the universities. We remember that when Dr Najafi was in charge of the universities, it was at the peak of the crisis of universities. Management is not the administration of a large organization, management is where someone can get control over the disturbances in a crisis and carry on with his work. He was one of the successful ministers of Martyr Raja'i.

At the conclusion of his talk, he defended the nomination of Mr Foruzesh as Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade.

Morteza Katira'i (against)

The last opposition speaker was Mr Katira'i, representative of the people of Tehran, who gave a short talk concerning the nominee for Minister of Education. He said: The Minister of Education must be someone who has taught and given exams in the schools, who has corrected papers, who has known students and teachers in various situations, and who can raise the morale of students and teachers. The people think that a teacher is a worker, when a teacher is a special person with special capacities and limitations.

Continuing his remarks about Mr Najafi, he said: I know our dear brother Mr Najafi. I have never seen him when he was not polite and respectful. I know that he is one of the successful people in government and I consider this a privilege. It is a privilege for me. I believe that if he were to serve in other organizations, he would be a source of service and good works, but my final word on the subject is that if he became minister of education, by reason of what I have said that he is not a member of the Ministry of Education and has not taught, it would both be harmful to him and a detriment to the minister of education.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Katira'i said: Whenever you want to confirm someone as minister of education, you must select someone who has been in the educational environment for years and who has taught.

Suri-Laki (for)

The final speaker in favor of the nominees was Mr Suri, who declared his support for the nominations of Mr Shamkhani, Mr Namdar-Zanganeh, and Mr Foruzesh for the IRCG Ministry, the Ministry of Energy, and the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade.

He began his talk by discussing the revolutionary characteristics of Mr Shamkhani, his experience, analysis, planning, and organization in war, especially his formation of the IRGC of Khuzestan, his command of IRGC Ground Forces, his knowledge of military affairs and politics, and the martyrdom of two members of his family. Then he said: Mr Shamkhani is one of those people who believes in the world mission of the revolution and objects to the existing international system.

The speaker then spoke in support of Mr Namdar-Zanganeh, citing his work during his time at the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, including the building of docks, dams, silos, and giving importance to the domestic forces and resources, and his concern for the training of personnel for use in achieving self-sufficiency. He said: I am confident that he will fulfill the responsibilities of this ministry with the help of aware people who are concerned about the revolution in the Ministry of Energy and praise God there are many of them and they will work with him.

Concluding his talk he then said concerning Mr Foruzesh: He is a familiar figure at the fronts and in the war, from a suffering family that believes in the revolution. Throughout the war he remained in the combative city of Dezful under the Zionist enemy's rockets, and he chose to remain at the front rather than pursue credentials at the university.

Remarks of Prime Minister Musavi

After the comments by those for and against the nominees, the prime minister spoke, giving a short talk with reference to some of the remarks of the brothers opposed to his nominees. He said: Concerning the reasons for selecting ministers, the brothers noted that the ministers, such as those of education and commerce, should be selected from within the ministry. I would like to say that in the long run this policy in practice would keep us from using experienced and zealous personnel throughout society, and this reason for selection is not a good one. It would have the effect of partitioning the ministries and in practice the entire government, including the Majlis itself.

To make use of the best forces in these various ministries, it was noted, and of course this was somewhat disconcerting, that the selection of Mr Najafi is an insult to teachers. I had the honor of being a teacher for several years myself, and I used to think that if I did not have the good fortune to serve in the government, I would certainly return to the teacher's garb. It is not like this, and I think that in government work everyone believes that a teacher is an eminent person among us in society.

This nomination does not carry this implication. In general, we regard higher and secondary education as two separate issues. Is not Mr Najafi a teacher? Do not the brothers who have raised this issue go to classes? Certainly he must begin with the elementary class, and work up, before we can call him a good teacher.

Mr Musavi praised the labors of Mr Zali on the managerial work of Mr Kalantari. He said: He is one of the strong people in agricultural affairs. He can bring new methods and a new atmosphere to the Ministry of Agriculture, realizing many hopes. This is the way this issue must be regarded. He has been truly successful in his own work which he has taken on. He is one of the nation's strong managers, and God willing this matter will be noted.

Remarks of Dr Mohammad 'Ali Najafi (Minister of Education and Training)

After the prime minister's brief talk, Dr Mohammad 'Ali Najafi gave a talk in support of his candidacy. He began by talking about his record of struggle and his activities after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution. He then discussed the reasons for his nomination as minister of education. He said:

After the prime minister chosen by the Majlis and the president chosen by the people told me that they were in agreement concerning me nomination and that they thought I could bear the burden of this heavy responsibility, I thought about it for several hours, wondering if I should accept their proposal in light of the problems that lie ahead, the complexity of the task, and what little I have to offer. There were actually two factors that influenced my acceptance. One was the imam's remark that under conditions where the people are sending their children to be sacrificed, what a place this is [as published].

Then I thought about this, this message was not directed to only one person, but to those who serve in this country. The second factor was that the Ministry of Education has become stagnant, and if this situation continues, and God willing it will not, we will be faced with a general crisis. On the one hand, I believe that the state of the Ministry of Education reflects the state of the country. I therefore consider this a very important and respected responsibility.

At the same time, each of the brothers and eminent persons with whom I have had a brief opportunity to speak have told me, do not say no, give your views concerning the nation's political situation, and let the Majlis decide. In view of that, this is what I have done.

Answer to Problems of Opponents

Mr Najafi answered the problems of his opponents. He said: One of the problems was my differences with the Reconstruction Crusade and with the Islamic societies. He said: Brothers and sisters, I have no ideological differences with the brothers of the Reconstruction Crusade and the Islamic societies, or if there are any, they are quite insignificant. The basis of our differences were styles of implementation. Concerning the management of the universities, I was saying that conditions in the university in 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] should be related to conditions existing in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], when the universities were opened the professors should [have been] given a role and responsibility.

This did not conform with their views. If we were to organize and administer the universities on the basis of new conditions, naturally a portion of the managerial power which was in the hands of the brother students should have been taken from them and given to the university managers and professors. This was the very basis of our differences.

Continuing his talk, he added: They said that I am not part of the Ministry of Education and Training, and it is true that I have never worked in the Ministry of Education and Training, but I consider myself an expert in educational matters of my country, as much as I regret having to expound my own virtues. I was a member of the Supreme Council on Education for five years, which is the highest decision-making body for educational planning.

Dr Najafi then discussed the study of the problems of the Ministry of Education and Training. He said: I believe that the Ministry of Education and Training has two basic problems, both of which are directly related to the universities. If someone is familiar with the problems of the university, it is hoped that he will solve them. One of the problems is the training of teachers, which is done in the education section of the universities. The Ministry of Education and Training must make use of the products of the universities.

The matter of procuring ministry manpower is one of its most basic problems. If someone can train a good teacher and keep him, he has done a good job. A second problem is the Ministry of Education's basic difficulty with regard to planning for the middle schools. We currently graduate 300,000 students per year from high school, 70,000 of whom enter the universities. What should be done for the other 230,000 people?

Should not this idea be based on university assistance? Should not changes be made in university planning? Should we not we do something for those who go to the universities? Should not something different be done for those who do not go to the universities and enter the job market? This is a university problem, and if the Ministry of Education and Training wants to remain separate from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, it will not succeed in solving this problem.

He then answered the other objections of the opponents. He said:

If 24,000 exceptional students were not mentioned in this plan, it is because a great deal of planning was done in the context of 12 million students throughout the country.

In 20 years the population of the country will be 100 million people, and it is predicted that there will be 28 million new students. For our general concerns we must have a common goal for 20 years into the future.

Executive Methods in the Ministry

With regard to the executive methods of the ministry itself, Dr Najafi said: The method of operation and the so-called work strategy of the Ministry of Education and Training I think is based on two points, the first being that I believe that the Ministry of Education and Training must start a public and national mobilization, otherwise it will be impossible for one minister to solve the great problems of the ministry.

Second, all financial resources, whether in the government or in other sectors, must in some way be directed to education and training. One must think about how the financial resources which are part of the ministry's direct budget will be used to solve the problem.

A third point is the use of all human and intellectual resources available, and they are abundant in a country at war, whether in the educational system or in the country, where there are many educated people. I think some training sites for the Ministry of Education and Training should be established, not simply a political site. If someone in the Ministry of Education and Training wants to operate from a political position, he will not be able to solve the problems of education and training. Therefore, with these three focal points, I think one can devise a strategy for dealing with the problems of education and training.

Concluding his talk, he said: Of course I will be happy if I receive a vote of confidence from this Majlis, and happy because a broad area of service has been given to me.

If I do not receive a vote of confidence, however, I will still be happy because I am now engaged in an occupation in which I am interested, particularly my employment as a teacher, especially as a teacher of mathematics, in addition to my primary occupation and my various cultural and educational activities. I do not think that I will be away from service to this country for even one moment.

Comments of Mr Hedayat-Zadeh (Ministry of Commerce Candidate)

Mr Hedayat-Zadeh, candidate for Ministry of Commerce, gave a talk which began with his telling the story of his life and then answering the issues raised by the deputies.

He began by describing himself as a student of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni. He then denied that he was employed in the Minu Company in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975], and his dealings with one of the companies mentioned. He said: A brother noted that the Ministry of Petroleum signed a contract with a company for which I was the cause [as published]. The brothers can get a list of the National Iranian Oil Company's contracts from the ministry. In the last three years when I was in the National Iranian Oil Company, there were no dealings with such a company.

He added: Another brother discussed what we had done to clean up the Ministry of Commerce. In 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] when I was in the Ministry of Commerce, we fired about 100 people and replaced them with committed and specialist forces.

Continuing his answers to the questions raised by the representatives in connection with the Italian company, trips abroad, the transaction involving 22 million barrels of oil during the rocketing of Tehran, and his position with regard to domestic production, imports and items outside the economy, and the single-product economy, he said: The only way to solve this problem is production, and policies must be set to increase production, because one of our problems is our export capability. We must increase our export capability, and this cannot be increased except by increasing production.

He then discussed the matter of bureaucracy and the elimination of some existing laws, along with the making of trade policy. He said: Trade policy is not made in the ministry itself. Some of the [authority] is delegated to other departments of the government, and there should also be a centralized system in policy-making.

Concerning the non-centralized system, it must be operated in such a way that it will not be necessary for someone to leave his municipality and come here to get his check. There should be a non-centralized system divided by province, city, and village, because the cost of coming and going, although paid by cooperatives, ultimately add to the total cost and are ultimately imposed on the consumer.

Mr Hedayat-Zadeh then discussed his future plans, including the expansion and creation of facilities for border trade, encouraging and establishing package industries and protection of productive cooperatives, and finally his readiness with ten years' domestic and foreign commercial experience in various matters for the purpose of assuming the ministry in a trustworth manner.

Dr 'Isa Kalantari (Minister of Agriculture)

After Najafi's other remarks, Dr 'Isa Kalantari began speaking and gave answers to his opponents. He began by saying: In their talks, the respected brothers in opposition said, God forbid, that I have not understood the Hezbollah forces, and that instead of them, I have appointed forces who do not believe in the Islamic Republic. I believe that many of these rumors are not just rumors. People who are in the Ministry of Agriculture and other institutions know that I not only have not thrown out a single Hezbollahi member, but I have not employed a single non-Hezbollahi. Just let me say that the Ministry of Agriculture is a refuge for the Hezbollah brothers.

Concerning the research department, which he himself designed, he said: When I designed the research department in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], I divided it into 13 sections, including the genetic engineering department, bio-chemistry, biology, seeds, feed... I think that the brothers who are involved with research can imagine that I carried out some of these projects that have been completed; that is, I completed them from top to bottom. I have reduced the time for research projects that previously took four years to two years.

Agricultural Plans and Priorities

Dr Kalantari then discussed agricultural plans and priorities. He said: The first priority is with natural resources. The country's natural resources are the basis of agriculture and animal husbandry. Note well, that if they take our natural resources away from us or if we lose them, we will immediately lose all agricultural production. The reality in the agricultural section of natural resources is that natural resources are the foundation and agriculture and animal husbandry are the building blocks. Unfortunately, either the capability was not there, or we could not utilize them, or the resources were not available.

The statistics of the Forests and Pastures Organization itself show that the rate of destruction of natural resources is five times that of the rate of revitalization. In other words, we have a negative growth rate in natural resources, and special attention must be given to this. I believe that, God willing, the plans that are to be put forward will create a universal mobilization for natural resources.

Agricultural organizations should not be an obstacle to growth and production. The organizations should be available to farmers and producers in the shortest time possible and to a sufficient extent. We must economize by reducing costs and increasing income per hectare in agricultural production. The brothers have said that there is no social justice in my plan. I believe that any kind of attention to agriculture is social justice, because 99 percent of our farmers are oppressed people.

Concluding his remarks, he said: If the respected Majlis finds me worthy of this responsibility and gives me a vote of confidence, with the support of you dear ones and without idealism in agricultural planning, using existing resources, and along with compromises for the future, we will be able to take steps toward economic independence by reaching self-sufficiency in basic agricultural crops. In this way we will not be victims of the ruinous foreign food boycotting policies.

Gholamreza Foruzesh (Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade)

Mr Gholamreza Foruzesh gave a short talk giving thanks for his nomination as Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade and discussed some of his programs. He said: God willing, with the preparation and cooperation that the crusading brothers wil have, we will be able to keep the crusade as dedicated as ever on the path of the rule of the jurisconsult and in carrying out the sacred goals of the Islamic government in accordance with the law and with the toiling government.

I am sure that with the cooperation the dear and nameless crusading brothers will provide in their specializations throughout the country, we will succeed in providing services to honor the toiling class of rural people and tribes, in giving fundamental services for existing needs in order to reach self-sufficiency and solve the problems of the villages in the not-so-distant future, provided a lasting peace is established.

Concluding his remarks, referring to his academic credentials, he said: Despite the positions that the dear deputy brothers have had concerning credentials, for the sake of those dear ones with credentials who came to the fronts en masse and were slaughtered, and for those dear student brothers who willingly toiled for years to carry out their duty on the imam's orders in this sacred war, and the dear fighting brothers who are hearing these remarks, to please them and to announce the Majlis' position on this subject, let me say that we had many brothers who could have done this and carried out their responsibilities with the proper credentials, but because of the war they temporarily deferred it. What I wanted to say was:

A wise man came from the school to the house of prayer.
He interrupted the conversation of the devotees.
I said what is the difference between this world and eternity,
That you have selected this one rather than the other?
He said, that one can only take care of himself
And this one is trying to save a drowning man

Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh (Minister of Energy)

In his defense, Mr Namdar-Zanganeh discussed the aims of the Ministry of Energy. He said: The Ministry of Energy must, within the framework of its prerogatives, try to satisfy the people and the morale of the workers as a matter of principle in its work.

He then added: In order to study and implement water and electricity projects in the country, greater attention must be given to research in the water and electrical industry. We have many problems in these areas now. We are dependent. We need people who have doctorates and master's degrees to do the planning needed.

During the war and the bombing of installations, there was no possibility for us to have a suitable expansion. Now that we are in a period of reconstruction, we must make up for past delays.

Continuing his talk, he then discussed his future plans for the Ministry of Energy and the use of the talents, creativity and various forms of education, as well as the issue of attracting people and reaching a state of nondependency on foreign countries.

'Ali Shamkhani (IRGC Ministry)

Mr 'Ali Shamkhani gave a short talk in his defense. He said: I do not attribute the lack of opposition to me to a lack of weaknesses in me, rather I see it as arising from a perception of the true current state prevailing in the Armed Forces and the piety of the IRGC, and God willing we will maintain this precision of viewpoint in correcting our procedures.

He then discussed the country's defense foundation, from the army to the IRGC to the prevalence of the imam's line. He then discussed the martyrdom of two of his brothers. He said: Do not vote for me simply because I have two martyred brothers. They became martyrs on their own and followed their own path, and I had nothing to do with that matter. God forbid that they should become a reason for my being appointed to a ministry.

Results of the Voting on the Ministers

After the talks by the nominated ministers, a vote was taken. The results were:

'Ali Shamkhani became minister of the IRGC with 202 votes in favor, 10 votes opposed, and 6 absentions.

Gholamreza Foruzesh became minister of the Reconstruction Crusade with 180 votes in favor, 14 votes opposed, and 13 abstentions.

Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh became minister of energy with 177 votes in favor, 14 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

'Isa Kalantari became minister of agriculture with 171 votes in favor, 25 votes opposed, and 19 abstentions.

Mohammad 'Ali Najafi became minister of education and training with 128 votes in favor, 49 opposed and 30 abstentions.

They received a vote of confidence from the Majlis.

Mr Majid Hedayat-Zadeh, candidate for the Ministry of Commerce, was unable to gain approval with 94 votes in favor, 83 opposed, and 31 abstentions.

There will be a public session of the Majlis tomorrow morning.

Pakistan

President Briefed on Orders Implemented in Sind

BK1110163088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The president was also briefed on the pace of the implementation of the orders he issued regarding the maintenance of law and order in Sind. The president expressed satisfaction with the fact that these orders have been implemented. He was informed that 15 platoons of the frontier forces have been sent to Sind to maintain law and order. Armored cars have also been provided to the police force deployed in Sind to further strengthen the law enforcement agencies.

A night curfew has been imposed with immediate effect extending to a 25 km area along the border with Sind. A notification of the Sind government says that the deputy commissioners of the border districts have been asked to render full assistance to the police and Army in totally patrolling the areas during curfew hours.

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5 Ordinances Issued To Curb Terrorism, Crime

BK1310090988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The president has promulgated five ordinances to make laws for curbing terrorist activities and other heinous crimes, like kidnapping and production of spurious drugs, more stringent. The ordinances, which come into effect at once, include the Suppression of Terrorist Activities, the Special Courts Amendment Ordinance, the Pakistan Arms Amendment Ordinance, the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, the Special Courts for Speedy Trial Amendment Ordinance, and the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Ordinance.

The antiterrorism ordinance empowers the special courts to try any accused person in absentia for his involvement in acts of terrorism. It further provides that the accused will not be released on bail by a special court or by any other court if there are reasonable grounds to believe he is guilty of the aforesaid crime.

The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Ordinance empowers the provincial governments to seek the Army's assistance in order to maintain law and order and public security in their respective provinces. However, they would have to seek prior approval of the federal government to use the Army for this purpose.

The Pakistan Arms Amendment Ordinance provides for a 14-year jail term and fine, and the confiscation of the property of any person found guilty of possessing or selling, or offering to sell, light or heavy, automatic or semi-automatic weapons, like cannons, grenades, bombs, rockets, or Kalashnikovs, or any kind of rifle or ammunition. The ordinance provides that the person possessing such weapons can be sentenced to a 10-year jail term with a fine. [sentence as heard]

The Special Courts for Speedy Trial Amendment Ordinance says that any appeal presented to a high court will be decided by that court within 3 months.

The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance 1988 provides for the death sentence or a 14-year jail term with a fine for any person accused of kidnapping with the intent to collect ransom.

Armed Forces Chief on Election, Recent Clashes

BK1210161588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that the political leadership, the judiciary, and the Armed Forces are the basic elements of national integrity, and the paramount need of the hour is the proper functioning of these institutions.

Addressing a gathering of the Punjab Regiment forces on the occasion of the annual conference of the regiment's commanding officers in Mardan today, Gen Aslam Beg said that as far as the judiciary and the Armed Forces are concerned, they both have played effective and positive roles in paving the way for free and fair elections on 16 November. The country's political leadership must fulfill its national obligations on this occasion.

Referring to recent violent incidents in Hyderabad, Karachi, and other parts of Sind, the Army chief said that this is part of the heinous conspiracy by our enemies who want to divert us from the democratic path. He said that all positive steps have been taken to root out terrorism and violence from Sind and to establish law and order there as in other parts of the country. Gen Aslam Beg paid tribute to the officers and men of the Punjab Regiment for their services in defending the country. He said that wholehearted efforts are being made to equip the Pakistani Armed Forces with modern weapons and equipment to effectively meet any situation.

Foreign Minister Returns From UN Session

BK1210093988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union have agreed to continue their dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based interim government which enjoyed the support and confidence of the people of Afghanistan. This was stated by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on his return to Islamabad this morning after leading the Pakistani delegation to the UN General Assembly session.

He told newsmen that Pakistan formulated a draft resolution on Afghanistan after extensive consultations with its friends as well as the Soviet Union. It enjoyed the support of all sides, including the Soviet Union. He said the resolution which will come up before the General Assembly early next month incorporates our core interests.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said during his meeting with President Reagan, the U.S. leader assured him of continued and sustained support to Pakistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

President Reagan also appreciated President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's commitment to pursue principled foreign policy, particularly in respect of Afghanistan, and his determination to hold free and fair elections on schedule.

Sri Lanka

Cabinet Decision on Stateless People Noted

BK1210170488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Cabinet today decided to bring in legislation in Parliament at the earliest to grant citizenship to persons of Indian origin who have remained stateless so far. A press release for the Ceylon workers in Colombo stated that any person of Indian origin who has lawfully resided in Sri Lanka and has not yet applied for grant of Indian or Sri Lankan citizenship, will also be entitled to Sri Lankan citizenship in the proposed legislation.

In January 1986, India and Sri Lanka entered into an agreement in which Sri Lanka was to grant citizenship to 469,000 people and also to any residual stateless persons. So far, the Sri Lankan Government has provided citizenship to 236,000 persons of Indian origin. Although there has been some delay in the implementation of the agreement of 1986, the proposed legislation will now take care of all stateless people of Indian origin and they will be made Sri Lankan citizens.

The Indian Government on its part had to grant Indian citizenship to 506,000 persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka. Out of this 422,000 persons have been granted such citizenship. The cases of the remaining 84,000 have also been taken up.

Our Colombo correspondent reports that the proposed legislation by the Sri Lankan Government will fulfill the long-standing demand by stateless persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka.

LTTE Leader Kittu Released in Jaffna

BK1210140788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The LTTE leader, Mr Sadasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, was released by the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Jaffna this afternoon along with seven other members of the LTTE.

According to the official spokesman in New Delhi today, a companion of Kittu, Miss (Cynthia), was also released at Jaffna.

They were released in the presence of the members of the coordination committee of the citizens councils of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. Others present on the occasion include the municipal commissioner of Jaffna, Mr C.V.K. Sivakgyanam, and 17 members of the citizens committee.

Meanwhile, during search operations in the Jaffna sector, the Peacekeeping Force apprehended seven LTTE suspects. One PKF member was killed and three others wounded. In the Tricomalee sector, one hard-core militant was killed and two others captured while trying to escape from the PKF cordon.

Curfew Extended in South; Schools Closed

BK1310055388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13 (AFP)—A curfew in southern and central Sri Lanka was extended by one more day Thursday after police shot dead a student protestor and wounded scores of others, officials here said.

Widespread student demonstrations Wednesday also forced the closure of some 9,500 schools throughout the country till Monday and three universities till December, an Education Ministry spokesman said.

The government in a statement said the curfew clamped on Central and Kandy and Harispattuwa towns after a 20-year-old student was killed by police there Wednesday was lifted for five hours and would be reimposed at noon (0630 GMT) Thursday. [sentence as received]

It said a 72-hour curfew in southern Matara District was eased for 10 hours and would be effective again for another 24 hours, also from Thursday noon.

Thousands of students in Kandy took to the streets Wednesday torching four state-owned buses and a truck and attacking police with stones seriously wounding four constables and eight others, officials said.

"Police were forced to fire live ammunition because they were surrounded by a large crowd of students who were joined by outsiders," Central Province Chief Minister W.P.B. Dissanayake said.

Officials said there were violent anti-government protests in at least 10 key towns involving thousands of secondary and primary school students. In one incident, students set fire to an effigy of President Junius Jayewardene.

The government indefinitely closed 115 schools Wednesday to stop students in them joining demonstrations, but the action angered colleagues in other shoools who took to the streets, they said.

Police and troops fired teargas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators, except in Kandy where live ammunition was used, police said.

Two students have died in similar clashes with police in the past three months.

An Education Ministry statement said a union of university students, the Inter-University Student Federation, was behind the student unrest. The organisation is known to be sympathetic to the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front).

The curfew in Matara was first imposed Monday after JVP-backed demonstrators clashed with security forces, leaving 13 people dead and at least 38 wounded.

Also Monday, the JVP staged a successful one-day nationwide general strike to protest autonomy elections in the island's north and east. Monday was the closing day for nominations to a new provincial council for the two regions.

The elections to the council scheduled for November 19 are in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campign by giving greater autonomy to the island's Tamil minority.

The JVP is violently opposed to the peace plan, under which New Delhi has deployed some 49,000 troops in the island's troubled Northern and Eastern Provinces.

In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.